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A dream comes true for AIDS orphans

By Han Manman

Seven AIDS orphans will head back to their home in Shanxi Province today after a two-day trip around the capital.

As students of China's first primary school exclusively for children affected by AIDS, which opened in Shanxi province in September, they were invited by CCTV to come to Beijing to see the sights and take part in a video to be screened on World AIDS Day, December 1.

The children, who are all aged from six to nine, developed HIV through mother-to-child transmission and all have seen their mothers die. To help the children get access to an education, the Linfen Hospital for Infectious Disease funded the primary school, called Red Ribbon, within its AIDS Treatment Center.

"The children have long dreamed about coming to see Beijing and now their dreams have finally come true," said Guo Xiaoping, the head of the school. On their two-day trip the kids, who are aged from six to nine, toured Tiananmen Square and

the Forbidden City.

"Most of the children cannot remember their mothers," said school director Qiao Zhiping. He said some of the children had studied in conventional primary schools before but had suffered discrimination from their classmates and teachers. "We have a student who was incessantly bullied by his classmates, who would make fun of him by calling him an AIDS child," said Qiao. "That affected him very badly but we've been working hard to help him recover."

When a photographer tried to take photos of the children, they quickly ran and hid behind their teacher, Zheng, who is also HIV positive. "I was an AIDS patient myself in Linfen hospital, so when I saw those children I felt their pain," she said. "I wanted to be a mother figure for them and help them to overcome mental barriers." All the children are receiving free AIDS treatment and education. There are over 60 AIDS children in Shanxi and many more are expected to join the Red Ribbon school.



The children were reluctant to be caught on camera. Photo by Jackey Jia

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Rare chance to see good driving in Beijing

By Annie Wei

A race in the A1GP world cup series – the highest-level motor sport event ever to be held in Beijing – will be run on the city's streets this weekend.

Teams from 23 countries, including Germany, Mexico, Malaysia, Canada, and the US, will battle it out on a street circuit in Yizhuang, in the southeast of the capital. The course runs for 3.1 kilometers, around the Jingkai exhibition center in the industrial zone of the Beijing Economic and Technological Development Zone.

The circuit features long straights and a tight hairpin bend where passing will be impossible. The narrow track is expected to add to the excitement for race fans.

Competition is expected to be fierce as the overall championships is still wide open, with the teams from South Africa, Germany and Malaysia currently in pole position.

David Clare, A1GP's chief operations officer, said the race should help broaden A1GP's appeal and audience.

The weekend's race action

begins with a rookie drive and a session for developing nations on Friday morning between 11am and 12pm, followed by a practice session in the afternoon for senior teams, from 2pm to 3pm. Final practice and qualifying for the sprint race will be on Saturday, with the final on Sunday.

Grandstands have been erected with a capacity for 25,000 spectators, with tickets starting at a hefty 900 yuan.

The event has garnered strong support from of the General Administration of Sports China (GASC) and the Automobile and

Motorcycle Sports Administration Center.

Roads will be closed off around the street circuit and blocked. The creation of the circuit itself has required the closure of Donghua Beilu in the Economic and Technological Development Zone from 7pm on Sunday to 7pm the following Monday. Drivers are advised to take a detour via Ronghualu or Xihuan Beilu.

Three parking lots will be established for the race, with spectators asked to use lot number three, which has a capacity for 7,000 cars.

Beijing crooner hopes to sing his way into the record books

By Jackie Zhang

A plucky 52-year-old Beijinger is hoping to set a new world record – by singing more than six octaves in tune.

Li Wenxing, a music teacher who lives in Xicheng District, has applied to the Guinness World Record headquarters in London determined to smash American Tim Storms' record of demonstrating a vocal range of six octaves. Mr Li will attempt to prove this his vocal range is six octaves plus one key.

"I have written a song which has a vocal range covering more than six octaves," said Mr Li. "It's the first song in the world that has covered such a wide vocal range."

The music teacher explained that because of their vocal cords, most people can only sing in either a low, middle or high vocal range. "It is difficult for people to sing in all of the three vocal ranges," he said. "But I'm confident that I can make a new record by showing that I have the widest vocal range in the world."

Mr Li started to learn music when he was a teenager, and practiced his singing religiously. In 2004, he went to the State Musical Instrument Quality Monitoring and Testing Center of Light Industry to test his vocal range. "The test showed that my vocal range was six octaves," he said. "Now I've trained myself to sing even more than six octaves."

Mr Li applied to challenge the current world record early last year, but it was canceled because of a problem in London. "Now I've started to re-prepare for the challenge in Beijing and I hope to carry it out early next year," he said.

Attack of the egos – China Fashion Week comes to Beijing

By Han Manman

China Fashion Week 2007, the 10th anniversary of the event, will open on November 15 at the Beijing Hotel. The event will last for one week, and there will be more than 60 events held at the Beijing Hotel, China World Hotel and in Chaoyang Park.

During the week, 35 fashion designers and 34 fashion brands from China, France, Italy, Japan and Russia will unveil their latest collections including more than 3,000 pieces of the latest fashion products to the public; there will also be five fashion design and make-up contests and two fashion shows from college students and teachers.

Five Russian designers, Sergey Teplov, Yulia Nikolaeva, Olga Romina, Julia Dalakian and Tatiana Parfionova, will stage runway shows in Beijing on November 19 at the Beijing Hotel.

Twelve designers will unveil their latest collections at the event, including the Rose Studio Guo Pei Fashion Collection.

'SARS hero' accused of taking bribes

By He Jianwei

A Beijing district health chief is being investigated for accepting a bribe during the period when the capital was combating the SARS epidemic in 2003, Xinhua reported on Monday.

Wang Xuewen, the health office director of Pinggu District, is suspected of accepting a commission from a medical equipment company of at least 90,000 yuan (US\$11,407) in 2003, when Wang was president of the district hospital, according to the anti-corruption office in Miyun County, east Beijing.

In exchange, the hospital bought sterilization equipment from the company, said an official with the anti-corruption office.

Anti-corruption officials arrested Wang at his home at midnight on November 1. They also discovered and confiscated documents relating to the bribery.

Wang Xuewen, 46, who was honored as a model in the fight against SARS in the national health system, was promoted to his present position earlier this year for his accomplishment during the SARS epidemic in 2003.

The current president of Pinggu District Hospital, Yang Xiaodong, 45, is also under investigation for his suspected involvement in the bribery case. He was the vice president of the district hospital during SARS in 2003, and was also hailed as an example in the fight against SARS.

Pick your districts' legislators



Over eight million voters in the capital at over 12,000 polling booths, elect legislators at district and township level Wednesday. Xinhua Photo

No military tattoos as army rejects inked recruits

By Huang Daohen

More than 2,000 potential recruits in this winter's draft have been rejected for military service because they have tattoos, an official surnamed Xiao from the Beijing municipal draft office said this Wednesday.

A set of physical requirements issued by the Ministry of National Defense states that recruits are not allowed to have tattoos of

more than two centimeters in diameter visible whilst wearing shorts and a vest. Xiao said that tattooed troops would be bad for the image of PLA (People's Liberation Army).

The rejection rate so far during this year's recruitment has been 50 percent, the same as last year. Poor eyesight and being over-weight are still the main reasons for rejection, said Xiao.

As well as not being tattooed, army recruits have to pass a number of psychological tests before being accepted for service.

Those deemed mentally unfit or psychologically unhealthy will not be allowed to join the army, said Xiao. He added that the army will seek to recruit more young people with higher education and technical skills.

'Naked poet' bares all

By Huang Daohen

"Nudity helps my creative juices flow," said Su Feishu, a poet who was detained by Haidian police last month for reciting poems in public stark naked. "I don't regret what I did," said Su, after being released. "It felt like the right thing to do at the time, and it wasn't like I was running down the street with my bits flapping around."

Su packed up his poetry and

left his hometown of Chongqing for Beijing in 1994. At a poetry reading held at the Culture-Subject Plaza Bookstore in early October, he peeled off his 16 layers of clothes before launching into a recital of his poem, "That is all". When he whipped off his kegs the administrators arrived and turned off the lights, telling the startled audience to leave. The party-poopng Haidian police

arrived a few minutes later and led Su away. He was jailed for 10 days for causing a public nuisance. After his arrest, websites and blogs buzzed with news of the impromptu striptease.

"By baring his bollocks he ruined the essence of the poem," wrote one indignant blogger. "He's just chasing fame," wrote another equally crude scribbler.

But Su insisted that all he had

wanted to do by taking off his clothes was to better convey the meaning of the poem. "We advocate poetry in terms of language and clothes are like shackles," he said. "We have to remove them."

Su's behavior, according to Jiang Ming'an, a professor from the Law School of Peking University, not only violated the code of ethics, but also was in violation of the relevant provisions of the law.

Private aircraft: playthings of the rich

By Han Mamman

The sixth Airshow China ended Sunday in Zhuhai, in south China's Guangdong Province. Particularly admired was the private aircraft 'Eaglet-500' - which although priced at about two million yuan, caught the eye of the spectators.

Some 151 Eaglet-500s have been reserved for sale, and many buyers are personal users. The cheapest private aircraft at the airshow was just a few hundred thousand yuan.

Statistics shows the desire of personal users and companies to buy aircraft is increasing at 10 percent each year.

According to Zhang Rongwei from the Civil Aviation Flight Uni-

versity of China (CAFUC), buying a private aircraft now is not as crazy a dream as it once was. Your problem might be more about where to fly it - China's airspace could be more open to the public.

China once strictly prohibited the granting of airplane licenses to private individuals but its policies toward private aircraft ownership were shifted after its new Regulation on Flight Control of General Aviation took effect on May 1, 2003.

The regulations greatly simplified the procedures of using and flying private aircraft while allowing private individuals into its low-altitude air space.

"The full exploitation of our low-

level airspace resources will be a new priority for development of the aviation industry in future," said Zhang Yaokuan, deputy director of China's Air Traffic Control Commission.

However, for private aircraft lovers, the procedure is still complicated, and private aviators can only land at civil airports if a prior application has been made to the airport. Some airports need the material a week in advance.

According to forecasts from the aerospace industry, China now sells more than 1,000 airplanes to private individuals every year. Based on the 11th Five-Year Plan, China will gradually open low-altitude airspace (below 600 meters) to the

public in five to 10 years, meaning a huge market will be open for private aviation.

Diamond Aircraft Industries Inc is the largest general aviation manufacturer of single engine aircraft in Canada. Diamond also believes that there is a small group of people, who are able to afford private airplanes, and the number will be increasing. Based on the optimistic view, Diamond is preparing to produce aircraft in China.

The market for private airplanes is heating up with new aviation regulations and competitive prices. Pilot training schools are eyeing the commercial opportunities like tarts with the rent due.

Numbers blessed by Shaolin abbot lucky for orphans

By Jiang Xubo

Ten mobile phone numbers blessed by Shi Yongxin, abbot of the Shaolin Temple in Henan Province, fetched a total of over 320,000 yuan (US\$40,000) at a charity auction this week.

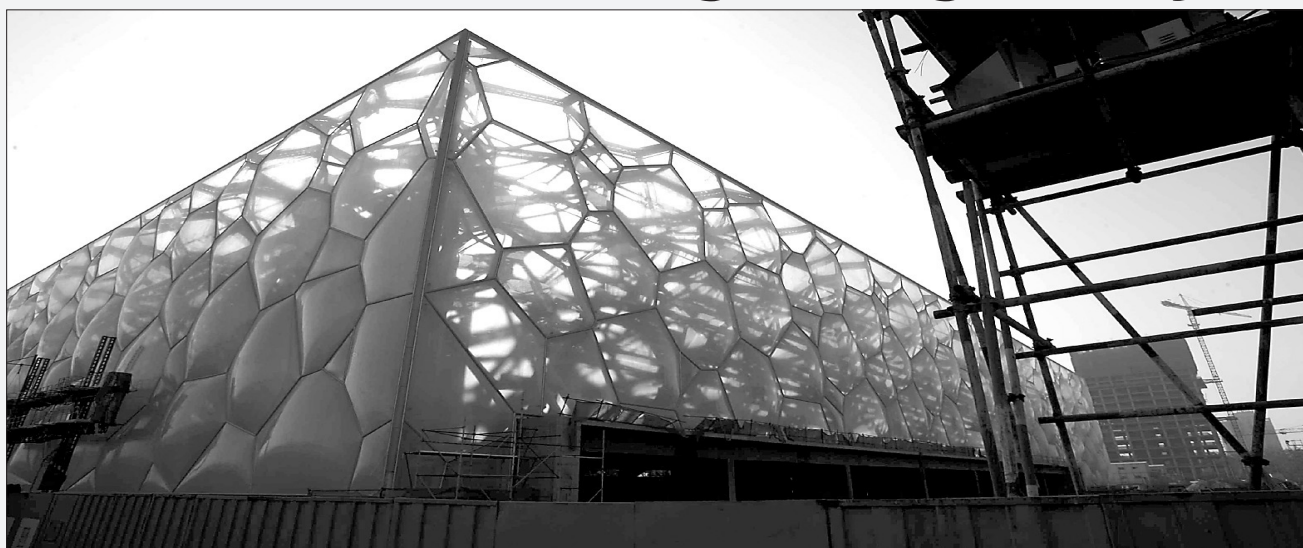
Bidding for one number, 15303718888, thought to be particularly auspicious for its owner as eight is traditionally a lucky number, exceeded 80,000 yuan (US\$10,000).

"We came to buy this number, and we did it," said Wang Jianwei, a local steel dealer who won the bidding. "We feel happy that we could help other people," said Wang's wife.

Some 270,000 yuan (US\$36,000), earnings left over after the auctioneer's fees have been paid, will go to support the work of an orphanage run by the monastery. It is believed it will be able to cover the living expenses of some 40 children, as annual costs per orphan run to around 6,000 yuan (US\$760) a year, staff say.

The phone numbers, all beginning with 153, are from the latest batch released by China Unicom (CU) earlier this month.

The Cube bubbling along nicely



The National Aquatics Center, a major venue for the 2008 Olympic Games, now has an exterior coat of air cushions.

IC Photo

A crocodile sandwich and make it snappy



The crocodile was butchered at a street market.

Xinhua Photo

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Nantai Crocodile Lake Zoo (Nantai) in Haikou on Hainan Island has started selling crocodile meat in one of the city's busiest produce markets to raise money to cover zoo running costs, the *Southern Metropolitan Daily* reported on Tuesday.

The crocodile meat was fetching 216 yuan per kilogram. Press reports said on Monday a 1.7-meter crocodile was killed using a hammer and then cut into joints at the market, to the horror

of many passers-by.

The zoo is currently home to more than 3,000 crocodiles, but officials have plans to sell 2,000 of them for meat. Zheng Yi, the zoo's director, said that Nantai has been forced into this drastic step as the only way to keep open. Zheng hopes that the rarity value of the meat will lead to decent sales and thus revenue for the cash-strapped zoo.

Haikou Animal Inspection Station said that the crocodile meat has not been inspected or tested,

and may be unsafe for people to eat. Now they are aware that it has gone on public sale, the station will take measures to inspect the meat, despite not having dealt with the species before.

One old man who witnessed Monday's slaughter said, "I'm not so bothered about whether crocodile meat is safe to eat or not, either way it's wrong to treat the beasts so viciously. They say crocodiles are one of the cruelest animals, but that slaughtering process is even crueler."

Last emperor's private art collection on show

By Chen Shasha

Copies of hundreds of paintings and works of calligraphy, formerly in the private collection Aisin-Gioro Puyi, the last emperor of the Qing dynasty, went on show in Beijing this Wednesday, the first time the works have been on public display.

The paintings and calligraphy are national treasures of the highest grade, some of which date back to the 12th century Jin dynasty,

according to Wang Bingxin, chair of the China Association of Cultural Relics. The works were held in private collections in the Forbidden City during the Qing dynasty, and were secretly taken out of the palace by Puyi when he was expelled by the warlord Feng Yuxiang in 1924.

The collections accompanied the deposed emperor in his later vagabond life. he resorted to selling occasional pieces when times

were hard. Only some 10 percent of the entire collection was eventually recovered. It was placed in the Dongbei museum, the first to be built after the founding of the People's Republic in 1949.

The works on show in Beijing are copies made using the latest technology. Wang Bingxin said this allows the public to enjoy the works without exposing the originals to wear and tear. Wang said the popularity of art collecting has added

to public interest in cultural relics and antiques. More artifacts are being preserved because construction workers no longer throw them away when they dig them up, as was often the case in the past.

But the same interest has seen a rise in grave-robbing. "This makes it important to set heavy punishments for grave-robbing and people who damage artifacts by making crude copies of them," Wang Bingxin said.

Brief news

Record trade surplus

China's trade surplus last month reached US\$23.8 billion, hitting a monthly record high, according to figures issued this week by the General Administration of Customs.

Animal attacks

Over 11,300 people in the capital were injured by animals in the first 10 months of this year, up more than 28 percent on the same period of last year, including 10 cases of rabies originating outside Beijing, the Beijing Municipal Health Bureau said this week.

Industrial deaths

Over 9,000 people were killed in more than 53,000 workplace accidents nationwide last month, a death toll down 9.7 percent from that of last October, the State Administration of Work Safety said this week.

Food poisoning deaths

Over 6,000 people across the country were victims in 210 recorded cases of food poisoning in the third quarter of this year, including 70 people who died, the Ministry of Health announced this week.

Foreign companies

Overseas businesses have established more than 570,000 companies in China, with a total investment of more than US\$665 billion, since the reform and opening policy was adopted in late 1970s, according to Ma Xiuhong, vice Minister of the Commerce.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Kids tarred with stigma of stupid

By Han Manman

After his son got a series of low test scores, Mr Liu was asked by Beijing Xinyuanli Fourth Primary School to take his son to hospital to test if his son has learning difficulties.

"My son is in grade six, and recently his teacher told me my son always got bad scores in the school tests, and said he should check if he has learning difficulties," Liu said, adding, "My son loves to play and entered primary school earlier than other students. He doesn't have a problem and definitely isn't an idiot."

Liu rejected the teacher's suggestion and believes the school is using it as an excuse for failing his son.

Director Li of the school said the intelligence test is good for students. By testing the students, parents get a detailed evaluation about their children and know where their children are lacking so they can address problems early. Li points out that an IQ test is necessary for entering middle school. Li said if the hospital gives a low intelligence certificate, the middle school could give those students lower entrance scores to make sure they can enter middle school to receive further study and not affect the school's final rate.

Li also confirmed they will keep low intelligence scores secret. However, Liu said if his child has some problem studying, his parents and teachers could help him improve. Liu believes that labeling a child as of low intelligence is not only insulting but could affect his future opportunities. "Being labeled an idiot could turn a happy child into a sad one," Liu said.



Many clinics offer IQ testing.

Photo by Flower Geng

Dr Zhang from Beijing University Third Hospital has received many IQ testing cases recently. Parents now need to book the test two weeks in

advance. Some kids come following school requirements, some come because their parents want to find out if their children have a problem. "Many

kids are really mentally deficient due to an illness or other factors, but some are very clever, just too naughty," Dr Zhang said. The test uses computer analy-

sis through talking with the kids and checking their conversational ability as well as concentration and reaction. "We will tell the kids about the result," Dr Zhang said. Zhang doesn't believe the knowledge can affect children adversely. "We encourage those who have study issues but do not have mental problems. We tell them they are clever and give suggestions on how to improve themselves. As for the goofy ones, we tell them the results too. It's also no problem, as they don't even understand what it means."

So, what kind of children do the IQ test? Director Lu from the rehabilitation center in Beijing Children's Hospital said that when the children became very antisocial, anxious or their study performance is extremely bad, then the parents often take them to receive the IQ test. Child psychologists could then help the children with what they lack. However, the children should never know the test result.

Child psychologist Zhao Manyun suggests parents don't take their children for such testing. Some children who receive IQ testing have some psychological changes. They can dislike themselves. Their classmates make fun of them, their teachers know they have learning difficulties and treat and teach them differently. Zhao believes the IQ's high or low cannot become a scale standard to check a student's ability and the test results are not always correct.

Staff from Education Commission of Beijing Chaoyang District said they have already received some parents' complaints regarding schools urging students to take IQ tests.

New look in store for retail landmark

By Tom Mackenzie

Plans to bulldoze and rebuild the iconic Beijing Friendship Store are about to be given the green light by local government chiefs, sources say.

The massive, four billion yuan (US\$500 million) redevelopment, which will see the building enlarged by up to 10 times, is expected to be rubber-stamped before the end of the year with developers hoping to start work in early 2007, a few months later than originally planned. It will include 21 floors of office buildings, a 29-floor block of luxury apartments, a hotel, and shopping mall.

"The plans will be approved soon and when the work begins the store will be expanded and it will be much, much bigger than it is now," said a spokeswoman for Australian architects PTW who

have been hired to do the design work for the redevelopment. "The building will look completely different, it will be quite an impressive sight."

A spokeswoman from Aust-China Investment and Development, which has a stake in the project, added, "The plans have yet to be officially approved but we have no doubt that they will be rubber stamped very shortly. The process has just taken a bit longer than expected."

The state-owned Beijing Xidan Friendship Group and Noble Strength International signed a deal in July to rebuild the now flagging department store and turn it into a modern commercial complex.

The store, which first opened its doors in 1964, was a foreigners-only paradise where diplomats and the handful of other

expatriates in China could buy a range of imported goods. But since the reforms in the late 1980s the sprawling Chang'an Avenue store, which is famed for its somber design, high prices and sour faced shop attendants, has fallen out of favor with many of the city's expatriates who opt for the likes of Carrefour, WalMart or Jenny Lou's instead.

In 2004 store bosses reported a loss of more than three million yuan (US\$370,000) while its net profit in 2005 was just 79,200 yuan (US\$9,900).

This week, the city's expatriate community remained divided over the redevelopment plans.

Simon Bailey, 52, a British IT consultant who has lived in Beijing for over five years said, "I think it's about time they gave the place a face lift. I used



Beijing Friendship Store

Photo by Tom Mackenzie

to pop in there quite regularly when I first came over here but now there are so many more options I rarely go in. It's too expensive and too dreary."

But Emmanuel Luz, 29, a translator from Brazil who has lived here for two years, said the Friendship Store should stay as

it is. "It's a piece of history," he said. "It may not be as flash as WalMart but it's got a lot more character."

Developers will decide in January whether or not to relocate the store when the building work begins. They hope to finish the project by mid 2009.

Beijing previews 2008 Olympic traffic plans during China-Africa summit

Beijing, November 6 (AP) — Beijing ordered officials not to drive and asked motorists to do the same during a summit with African leaders, keeping normally jammed traffic flowing and previewing measures the Chinese capital is considering for the 2008 Olympics.

In one of its most expansive traffic campaigns ever, the city flooded state-controlled media with appeals not to drive, sent text messages on mobile phones, banned construction and ordered government agencies to halve car use.

The combination of control and persuasion proved remarkably effective, taking off the city's streets about 30 percent, or 800,000, of the capital's 2.8 million vehicles during six days of meetings between Chinese and African leaders over the weekend.

"People joked that it was impossible not to receive traffic information even if you didn't

want to know about it," Zhang Jingchun, a spokesman for the Beijing police's traffic management bureau, said at a news conference to highlight the campaign's success.

While Beijing prepares to test the readiness of its Olympic sports facilities by holding sporting events in the coming months, the China-Africa summit served as a tryout for one of the thorniest logistical problems the city is facing for 2008 — its often gridlocked traffic.

"Next year we will host a series of test events in the run-up to the Olympic Games as well as other major international conferences," Liu Xiaoming, spokesman for the city's Transportation Commission, said at the news conference.

The arrangements were not trouble-free. The Africa summit was the largest high-level diplomatic gathering Beijing has

hosted, with presidents, dignitaries and entrepreneurs from 48 African countries shuttling around the capital. Police shut down roads to make way for the motorcades, forcing traffic on to smaller streets that then easily clogged.

But the positive result lends encouragement to a city of 13 million that is undergoing economic and building booms. Soaring private cars and swelling fleets of official vehicles often leave the city choking in traffic and the health-threatening smog.

Traffic and pollution top the International Olympic Committee's list of concerns about 2008 and were raised at a meeting last month with Beijing Olympic organizers. Despite investing hundreds of millions of dollars on new roads and subway lines, city officials have acknowledged that special traffic and environmental controls would be needed for 2008.



Traffic and pollution are the top headaches Beijing has to curb.

CFP Photo

Interview with the editor:

We do different sections everyday, including this Travel Brief. We thought it would be interesting for our readers if they were in China.

For this section, we like to include offbeat and quirky stories that will grab our readers' attention. In the past, we have included stories on everything from the Ankor Wat Temple in Cambodia to cities in Thailand.

We also keep a close eye on developments in China, because it is becoming an increasingly popular tourist destination.

— John Freed, copy editor,
International Herald Tribune
(By Tom Mackenzie)

Obesity becoming a health problem in China



Poor eating habits and junk food can lead to obesity.

CFP Photo

Beijing, November 6 (AP) — China has an obesity problem.

The government figures about 60 million of its citizens are obese. That's the equivalent of the entire population of France.

An official of China's committee on food and nutrition blames rising affluence for an increasing

number of Chinese eating less grains and vegetables and more fat and junk food.

That's also resulting in more cases of high blood pressure and diabetes.

At the same time, about 24 million Chinese still live in abject poverty and suffer malnutrition.

Interview with the editor:

It's about what's going on in health in the world. We thought our readers might be interested, so we put the story on the website and let our people look at it and think about it themselves.

Like what's said in the story, poor eating habits and junk food caused this problem.

People in our country suffer the same problem, and our government has given guidelines

for health eating habits. We also encourage children to choose healthy meals in schools.

— Christian Goanalez,
Webproducer
(By Jiang Xubo)

Interest in Hindi studies at Beijing University

Beijing, October 29 (ndtv.com) — More than 50 students study at the Center for India studies at Beijing University, the only full-fledged Indian language department at a Chinese university.

As well as than Sanskrit, Hindi and Bengali, the center also offers courses in Indian religions, culture and history. In recent years, the center has seen a sharp rise in interest from students.

"Five or ten years ago, people in China knew nothing about India and only focused on western countries like Japan, America and Europe.

"Then I don't know what happened, but it was like people woke up having discovered India. They knew that it is a big country with a strong economy and business," said Professor Jiang Jingkui, vice director of the center.

Improving bilateral ties and growing economic linkages are persuading a growing number of students to study Hindi.

"My parents say if I learn Hindi, my future will be bright," said Wang Feng, a second year student.

"I want to work for a Chinese company in India," said Li Jian, a fourth year student. But the average

Chinese still knows next to nothing about their southern neighbor.

"The average Chinese knows very little about India. For example, if you ask an ordinary Chinese what India's national religion is, they would probably say Buddhism.

"They don't know anything about Hinduism," said Professor Guo Tong.

The center is jointly funded by the Chinese Ministry for Education and the Indian government which is providing a million rupees (US\$22,300) to the department every year for a period of five years.

Interview with the reporter:

It is good to introduce something about India, especially to the young people. By teaching Indian language and culture to the new generation, this center can help promote mutual understanding.

For the students, learning Indian language can help to get a job, either in Indian companies in China or Chinese companies in India. Though this job market is small now, there will be more job opportunities in the future.

There is a Confucius Institute in Delhi, and there will be a second one in Chennai. We are neighbors and should support each other for better understanding.

Tourism is the best way to promote mutual understanding. But it costs 6,000 yuan (US\$760), a bit high. The governments should do something to reduce the cost.

— Anil K. Joseph,
PTI Beijing
(By Jiang Xubo)

Bank chairman gets 15 years in jail

IBM suspected of giving bribes

Beijing, November 6 (AFP) – The former chairman of China Construction Bank, Zhang Enzhao, has been sentenced to 15 years in jail for corruption.

Zhang was convicted of receiving bribes totaling 4.2 million yuan (US\$530,000). Zhang confessed to receiving cash, watches and property totaling that amount, the court report said.

But his lawyer said the property was given by “old friends” and could not be considered graft.

Other reports said Zhang allegedly also received a one million dollar ‘commission’ from an American company for selling its software to the bank.

International Business Machines Corp. is believed to be the company. Local reports

say IBM paid US\$225,000 to a sales agent who helped bribe the former chairman the court verdict said.

IBM was identified by the local court as one of three companies introduced by the agent, Zou Jianhua, who paid 2.68 million yuan (US\$340,000) in bribes to the banker, according to Bloomberg.

“I have no knowledge of the

matter,” said Amanda Garland, IBM Asia Pacific’s communication director. “We’re not going to comment on the court document,” Bloomberg reports.

China Construction Bank was the first publicly listed of the big four state-owned commercial banks. It raised eight billion dollars in 2005 after issuing IPO in Hong Kong.

MySpace to be launched in China

New York, November 9 (Reuters) – News Corp. said it could launch MySpace in China in the current fiscal year if it found the right joint venture partner.

The owners of the top Internet social network site announced a 50/50 joint venture with Softbank Corp. this week to launch a version in Japan.

Tesco comes to Beijing

Shanghai, November 6 (ft.com) – Tesco plans to open its first branded store in Beijing in January as part of a wider process of putting its name above the shop doors of its 42 jointly-owned Chinese hypermarkets.

The British-based chain, which paid US\$260m for a 50 percent stake in local operator Hymall in 2004.

PolarAir’s Beijing service

Beijing, November 8 (bizjournals.com) – Polar Air Cargo Inc. begins scheduled twice weekly air freighter service to Beijing Capital International Airport this week.

Polar is owned by Purchase, New York-based Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings Inc.

Beijing/Lagos service

Guangzhou, November 6 (Business Wire) – China Southern Airlines says it will launch a service from Beijing to Lagos, Nigeria (via Dubai), the first for a Chinese airline to Africa, from December 30 using Airbus A330.

Outbound flights will depart Beijing every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday; return flights departing Lagos on every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

BoCom’s share issue

Shanghai, November 9 (Reuters) – Bank of Communications Co. Ltd., China’s fifth-biggest lender, aims to issue A-shares in the first half of 2007 to raise 20 billion yuan (US\$2.5 billion).

The bank, 19.9 percent-owned by HSBC Holdings Plc., raised US\$2.16 billion in its June 2005 IPO in Hong Kong.

Microsoft to release Windows Vista

Beijing, November 4 (Reuters) – Microsoft says it will release the long-awaited update to its operating system, Windows Vista, on November 30.

In addition, the company will also release the Office 2007 software suite and Exchange Server 2007 for email and calendars.

LA promotes tourism in Beijing

Los Angeles, November 9 (CBS) – The Los Angeles City Council Wednesday approved a five-year, US\$4 million budget for the tourism office in Beijing.

Of the US\$12.9 billion in visitor spending in Los Angeles last year, US\$78 million was generated by visitors from China.

Tourism Expo



Decorated with traditional Beijing opera masks, the booths of China and Hong Kong attracted visitors at the World Tourism Expo held in London, November 6.

Delegations from nearly 100 countries and regions participated in the expo promoting their tourism products.

Xinhua Photo

QDII funds to invest US\$75 billion

Beijing, November 9 (Bloomberg) – China’s asset managers may invest US\$75 billion abroad in the next two years, slowing growth in foreign exchange reserves and easing pressure on the yuan to strengthen, Standard Chartered Bank said.

“We’re on the cusp of these funds coming out,” Stephen Green,

a Shanghai-based economist at the bank, said. “The government is very focused on facilitating these offshore flows.”

A flood of investment by global manufacturers building factories across China has fueled expansion in the world’s fastest-growing major economy, causing exports to surge and pushing up the value of the

yuan. The government is encouraging investment abroad to cap gains in currency reserves, which have climbed to US\$1 trillion.

China will let insurers invest as much as 15 percent of their combined 1.76 trillion yuan (US\$223.7 billion) in assets overseas, the China Insurance Regulatory Commission said in a June 9 statement.

The government also allowed the national pension fund to invest outside of China.

“Funds from the insurance, pension and private wealth sectors are mostly still readying themselves for trips overseas,” Green forecasts a US\$75 billion for investment by financial institutions, excluding banks.

Six billion yuan bad assets for sale

Beijing, November 7 (Reuters) – China’s four debt clearing firms hope to attract investors for a planned sale of six billion yuan (US\$761 million) worth of bad assets, the *Financial News* said.

China’s asset management companies, created in 1999 to take

over 1.4 trillion yuan in debt from the country’s big state banks, aim to sell the distressed assets in the near future, the paper said.

The bad assets include sour loans spun off from China’s big four banks and real estate and manufacturing interests from the

cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Tianjin.

The debt-clearers – Huarong, Cinda, Orient and Great Wall – have disposed of 83.5 percent of the bad assets taken over from banks when they were created.

They had worked through 1.17

trillion yuan worth of sour assets and recovered 187 billion yuan in cash by the end of June.

The debt clearing firms are largely trying to re-invent themselves into entities that can offer brokerage and investment banking services.

Personal finance highlighted at Beijing International Finance Expo

By Chen Shasha

Thousands of citizens gathered at the Beijing Exhibition Center to attend Beijing International Finance Expo from this Tuesday to Friday, mainly for personal finance consulting. More than 1,000 financial planners from 110 Chinese and international financial companies were there. Sixty lectures on personal finance planning were offered.

“I don’t have any knowledge yet. But since the interest rate dropped, I’m focusing on other

measures to get more value from my money,” Wang Qixiang, a retired worker said.

According to Miao Lei, financial planner from China Industrial and Commercial Bank, the investment to personal fund has flourished since 2005.

“More and more people tend to choose personal funds instead of money saving,” Miao Lei said.

According to a survey by Miao Lei’s department, the most popular fund in Beijing was the stock fund with high earnings and high

risk. Statistics from China Communication Bank showed that people aged from 30 to 50 were main fund investors.

The change in personal investment was not only due to the lower interest rates, but also the development of the economy.

According to Zhai Hongxiang, vice-mayor of Beijing, the per capital GDP of Beijing exceeded 5,000 yuan in 2005. The interest rate will keep on declining, according to Su Ning, vice president of the People’s Bank of

China. He said the deposit reserve rate would be reduced again by 0.5 percent from November 15.

Beijing’s financial investment is developing quickly. The total assets of Beijing financial street has exceeded 1,600 billion yuan, 60 percent of the total financial assets of China, said Su Ning. According to him, personal fund investment will be encouraged as the 2008 Olympic Games coming and foreign banks’ stock investments to Chinese banks will also be encouraged.

Saddam Hussein sentenced to hang

Daily Telegraph

Baghdad – A subdued Saddam Hussein returned to court Tuesday for his genocide trial, two days after judges in another trial convicted him of crimes against humanity and sentenced him to hang.

Saddam, smiling faintly and dressed in a black suit and white shirt, found his way quietly to his seat among the other six defendants charged in the Operation Anfal crackdown against Iraqi Kurds in the late 1980s. Saddam showed none of the bravado of two days ago, when he shouted, "Long live the people and death to their enemies!" as another court sentenced him to the gallows.

Instead, the ex-president sat in stony silence as Kurdish survivors told of being duped by promises of amnesty, only to watch their friends and family being shot by Iraqi government soldiers.

Saddam complained respectfully to the judge that the witnesses were not giving incriminating testimony, and that they were not being adequately cross-examined.

On Sunday, another five-judge panel convicted Saddam in the deaths of nearly 150 Shiite Muslims following a 1982 assassination attempt against him in the town of Dujail. He and two others were sentenced to death by hanging. Four co-defendants received lesser sentences and one was acquitted.

Comments:

I am distressed to see the barbaric nature of our so-called 'enlightened' civilization come to the fore with such venomous righteousness. Nothing has changed since yesterday's joyful throng cheering at public executions. Why is it that people so love to hate? Saddam should be given a sentence where he would have to perform hard labor in service of his people in a chain gang-like atmosphere.

– Eva Cutler

If you check the poll it says that 70 percent are in favor of death for Saddam. I'll bet out of that 70 percent a good amount of them opposed the war in Iraq. Irony. I personally am not sure what to do about Saddam, and was completely baffled why we ever went into Iraq when North Korea was an equal threat at the time.

– George

Let him live (in captivity initially) working towards a modest worthwhile lifestyle. Something in the order of some small service to the Iraqi people for all the years of trouble.

The Allied forces and the people of Iraq were victorious; let them show they are merciful as well.

– Andy.H. from Australia

I think we should let Saddam go and make him rule Iraq now that we've made it the most dangerous country on earth. After all, Iraqis were better off when he was their ruler rather than our hand-picked puppet Maliki. People are dying at a far greater rate in Bush's Iraq than they ever did in Hussein's.

– daves

Saddam deserves to die! He is responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent people, many of them his own. The Iraqis have made the right decision by sentencing him to hang. Maybe the public death of this monster will bring them a little relief.

–Bernadine Campo

I think putting him to death wastes an opportunity to draw upon his knowledge, and seems somehow a less harsh punishment than keeping him around as an undignified reminder of his fall from power.

–TedK - roch

We will be no better than he is. If we continue to be a warring and killing world, we will be met with the same, again and again. True life exists on a higher level, if we can't be any different than Saddam, what is the point? Who are the killers, and murderers? We are no different.

– Jerry first



Saddam seemed prepared when he was listening to the sentence.

Xinhua Photo

NYC to change ID rules for transgendered

Associated Press

New York – The city wants to make it easier for transgender New Yorkers to switch the sex listed on their birth certificate even without undergoing sex-change surgery, putting the city at the forefront of efforts to redefine gender.

Under present city rules, only people who can show proof of surgery qualify for getting a revised birth certificate. Even then, the only change made is the elimination of any reference to gender on the document.

The new plan, unveiled in September, would let birth records reflect the new gender. It would also allow changes for people who hadn't had genital surgery, but could show substantial proof that they have undertaken other steps to irrevocably alter their gender-identity – like undergoing hormone therapy.

The policy change is one that advocates for New York's sizable transgender community have requested for years, but which has taken on greater significance in a post-September 11 world of increased security.

New Yorkers need to show picture ID to enter office towers, air terminals, public monuments and all sorts of government buildings. They need them to apply for a job too, or buy beer at a neighborhood deli.

The trouble comes when someone inspects the documents, and notices that a person's listed gender doesn't appear to match the way they look and dress.

Comments:

This sounds like a very sensible policy change. It is far too difficult today for a transsexual person to change other documentation (such as licenses and passports.) without first having their birth certificate changed.

– John E. Brunswick, NJ

An operation or a box on a birth certificate does not diminish the presence of an X or Y chromosome. You are male or female by biology, not genitalia. The biggest problem with this is going to be in the criminal justice system

– Cher

This concept is old and it happens to inmates all the time. I want to change my sex to female just for the cheaper insurance rates.

– brian

I couldn't care less if you are a boy or a girl, a man or a woman or call yourself any of the above contrary to your biology. To me we are all people, although I have to admit I sometimes wonder about our Christian neighbors.

– James Ash

This world sure has changed and people are not happy with who they are, and that is sad. God gave you the body, which he intends to take from you in the same way

– Marci

Ninety-five percent of humanity wish they were something else: prettier, slimmer, whiter, more masculine, or whatever. Most people accept who they are and make the best of it. Life is short – be the best person you can be.

– Susan

I am always surprised at how some people are always concerned with what other people in a free society do. Please find a way to be distracted by something important. Travel somewhere, read something, learn another language, or at least try to pretend to be less ignorant.

– Not that interested...CA

Weekly topics

Guardian (UK)

1. Republicans closing gap as US votes
2. Turkey given deadline in EU accession talks
3. Three jailed for life for race murder of schoolboy
4. The banned rodeo on
5. UK al-Qaida man 'hoped to kill thousands'

Newsweek (USA)

1. Secretary Rumsfeld stepping down
2. Dems edge toward Senate control
3. WP: Rebuke for Bush, and the war
4. Court could ban abortion procedure
5. A recount scenario could get ugly

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. First snowstorm next Tuesday?
2. Man jailed for throwing dog on 401
3. Vatican urges Israel to ban Jerusalem gay parade

4. Road rage leads to shooting
5. Sundin loss shakes up Leafs

Washington Post (USA)

1. Stocks rise on election results
2. Hussein asks for reconciliation
3. Blind mice see after transplant
4. Philadelphia Inquirer editor steps down
5. Iranian ayatollah stands firm on nuclear program

(By Huang Daohen)

UNDP launches poverty reduction project in Beijing

By Qiu Jiaoning

A joint initiative to alleviate poverty among ethnic minorities was launched on Tuesday in Beijing by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in China, the State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC), and the China International Center For Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE).

Entitled 'Poverty Reduction for Ethnic Minorities in China', this four-year project is designed to support government efforts to alleviate poverty among ethnic minorities through building leadership capacity and developing culture-based industries at both

provincial and community levels in selected minority areas of three provinces in western China: Qinghai, Xinjiang and Yunnan.

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in China Khalid Malik said, "With a total fund of US\$7 million, the project will select five small ethnic minority groups in eight villages in the three selected provinces for community development in an effort to engage these villagers in decision making process based on their own needs and encourage them to find home-grown solutions to fight against poverty."

According to Malik, since more than 46 percent of the current

remaining absolute poor people in China are from the ethnic minority group, successful efforts to reduce poverty of the minorities will make significant contributions to the overall efforts of poverty reduction of China.

It will also provide institutional support to help minority farmers set up grassroots organizations to collectively address challenges facing them. "Apart from supporting household or individual efforts, this project will focus more on scaling up these efforts to focus on better organization of individuals via associations of product producers and service providers," said Malik.

The project will give priority to equal development of difference segments of population, embracing women, small ethnic minorities and villagers. Particular attention will be paid to gender equality among ethnic minorities where women are the main makers of handicrafts and service providers.

China's 55 ethnic minorities have a combined population of 106 million, or 8.4 percent of the national total. However, government statistics in 2003 showed that 13 million of them still lived in conditions of extreme poverty, accounting for 46 per cent of the national total of extreme poor.



Majid Majidi (right) CFP Photo

Iranian director to promote child's eye view

By Chen Shasha

The second international film director- Majid Majidi from Iran - has come to join the 'Vision Beijing' project. In the opening ceremony on November 5, he said he was moved by the passion of Beijing citizens, and would use a child's point of view to promote the city for Olympic Games. Majidi follows in the footsteps of Giuseppe Tornatore, director of *The Legend of 1900*.

Majid Majidi is widely known for *Children of Heaven*, which was nominated for an Academy Award as Best Foreign Language Film. His films always use stories about children and families as a way of metaphorically dealing with larger political and social issues.

This year, Majidi and four other directors were invited to China to film 2008 Olympic promotion movies, each five minutes long. "I could hardly imagine how billions of people can live in a country before I came. I guessed they must feel a lot of pressure... But during my visit to Beijing, all I saw was the citizens' enthusiasm and confidence," Majidi said. But he said what moved him most was the old people, who exercise in parks or help to keep order on the streets. "They still maintain young hearts and strong passion, while people of the same age in my country stay at home," Majidi said. He will film them in his movie, together with 1,000 kids. But the script is a secret.

Oliver Stone, an American filmmaker will also come soon. All the five directors' films will be shown on international flights from the end of this year to 2008.

Wanted: actors with X factor for Dream of the Red Chamber



One candidate is showing her performing talent.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

By Chu Meng

Now over 20 candidates from France, Britain, America, Canada, Japan and South Korea are competing with 185,000 Chinese to play characters in a new TV series based on the *Dream of the Red Chamber*. Sponsored by Beijing Television, the show features an American Idol competition for the roles. Anyone can enter, but they must impress a fierce panel of expert judges.

The *Dream of the Red Chamber*, also known as *The Story of the Stone*, written by Cao Xueqin during the 18th century is considered the greatest classical Chinese novel. It has been widely popular throughout the last 200 years and more. It is said to be a story originally engraved on a stone.

The *Dream of the Red Chamber* has been televised before by director Wang Fulin

in 1987, and broadcast by China Central Television. It is one of the three most popular Chinese TV series ever.

The competition for all of the characters in the series began in 10 major cities across the country including Taiwan, where all of the candidates from other countries will compete. Yesterday, the total number of applicants had reached 185,000, half of which registered in Beijing.

The first round of competition began this Wednesday in South Beijing Daguan Yuan Park, which was built to simulate the description in the novel in 1987 for the TV series. Over 3,000 applicants took their first round interviews by analysis experts of novel, professors from Beijing Film Institute and the staff from the new director group.

Wang Fansi, is a 20-year-old Canadian Chinese. He emigrated to Canada when he was 10. He

told the examiners, "I flew to Beijing last night. I have struggled for such a long time to decide whether or not to apply. Eventually I persuaded myself. It will be a great way to understand my home country and culture. I began to read the novel when I was 11 years old. And I believe I am suited to the principal male role, Jia Baoyu, both from my appearance and personality."

Zhang Qiang, the vice director of Beijing Television, said, "Unlike Wang who is born in China and looks like a Chinese boy, many other foreign candidates have fair hair and skin, distinguished from their appearance. Most of them are fans of Chinese traditional culture and language or Chinese novel lovers."

The first round examination will last for 20 days; the winners from each venue will have their finals next February in Beijing.

New list makes you wonder

By Huang Daohen

A delegation arrived in Beijing Tuesday from the 'New Seven World Wonders Foundation', for the China leg of their current world tour, to conduct a three-day inspection at the Great Wall.

The foundation is sponsoring a global vote for a new list of seven wonders to rival that of the ancient world. All but one of those original sites have long been lost in the mists of time.

"It is the first-ever global vote," claimed Ms Diya, of the New Seven World Foundation. "Only one of the original seven ancient wonders of the world still survives - now history lovers are being invited to choose a new list of seven." She said the delegation will make the Great Wall an official candidate for the new list once their inspection is complete.

The idea of creating a new list of contemporary wonders was the brainchild of Bernard Weber, a Swiss adventurer and filmmaker. The vote is organized by New Seven Wonders, a non-profit Swiss foundation, with results due to be announced on July 7, 2007, in Lisbon.

About 20 million votes have already been cast, often along national lines, with many from India supporting the Taj Mahal; whilst voters from China bigged up the Great Wall, and those from Peru, Machu Picchu, the fortress city of the Incas.

Votes can be made online at www.new7wonders.com.

Israel's leading actress extends hand to China

By Chen Shasha

Gila Almagor, first lady of Israel's film industry, showed her movies in the Israeli embassy last weekend, and expressed her wish to accelerate cooperation with the Chinese film industry.

"I grew up with Israel's cinema," said Almagor, as it was the 50th years anniversary of her film life. According to Almagor, film was a mirror to life, and people can see a true Israel from its movie. "Israel is a free country, and you can criticize the army, government and everything in the film," Almagor said. As chairman of Cinematheque-Israel, which was founded with the aim of promoting quality film and was subsidized by public taxes, she would like to accelerate communication between different countries in art movie. Now, she launched a project with Norway and Sweden to let children film movies themselves in their own countries' cinemas and exchange them. "I'd like to extend the project to China, but it's a pity that China doesn't have cinemas like some other countries do," Almagor said.

She came this time also to invite two Chinese actors to Israel to perform this year. "Chinese actors are talented. When I first saw Gong Li's performance in *Ju Dou*, I was totally astonished," Gila said. The second Chinese film festival would be held in Tel Aviv, and the third Israel film festival will be held in Beijing in the near future, added Shoshana Haim, official from the Culture Section of the Israeli embassy.

Mandelson talks of China's global role

By Han Manman

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson will finish his four-day visit to China today after meeting with Chinese vice-premier Wu Yi and Commerce Minister Bo Xilai, and giving a keynote speech at Tsinghua University.

One of the important issues for his visit is presenting to the Chinese the recent European Commission policy paper on EU-China trade and investment.

At Wednesday's news conference, Mandelson said that the European Commission's Competition and Partnership review of EU-China trade and investment policy is part of the wider Global Europe trade policy framework launched in October 2006. It reflects the dramatic changes in EU-China trade in the last decade and the importance

of managing China's new weight in the global trading system.

The review argues that both China and Europe have benefited from China's economic rise, despite the competitive pressure it has exerted in the global economy. The review commits Europe to remaining open to Chinese trade and adjusting to Chinese competition while China provides better market access, tougher action to improve protection of intellectual property and a commitment to trading fairly.

In a speech Tuesday at Tsinghua University, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson has argued that a resurgent China should be opening its markets wider to foreign competition and ready to take up global responsibilities for the preservation of the open trading system,

the global management of energy use and climate change.

He argued that Europe and the US must join China in a global political partnership that mirrored the increasing multiplicity and interdependence of the global economy. He argued that a necessary part of that partnership would be a frank debate on questions of fundamental rights and fair trade.

Commerce Minister Bo Xilai defended China's trade policies and market access when he met Peter Mandelson on Monday. "People who call for China to open up its markets further to the outside world must recall it's basically a developing country," said Bo.

Bo said China still has 100 to 200 million people living on the equivalent of US\$1 per day, and is not able to undertake drastic changes.



Peter Mandelson gives his speech at Tsinghua University

CFP Photo

UN to recruit new staff

By Chen Shasha

The 2007 National Competitive Recruitment Examination of the UN is to be held worldwide. Chinese people interested in working for the UN could go to www.mop.gov.cn to apply from this Saturday to November 20. People from other countries should go to www.un.org/Depts/OHRM/examin/exam.htm to search information of this exam in their own countries.

A pre-selection examination conducted by the UN in cooperation with the Ministry of Personnel of China will be held on December 10 in Beijing. Chinese candidates must pass the pre-selection if they want to attend the National Competitive Recruitment Examination. The examination of 2007 will be opened to those who born on 1 January 1975 or after, who hold at least a first-level university degree in economics or legal affairs. The available language of the exam is English and French.

Charles Martin Rycroft, Communications Officer of United Nations Children's Fund China said, "I suggest young people 'do' more things before they get the job. Experience is what the UN treasures. They can apply for internships, which could help them better understand the organization and will help if they want to join the UN in the future".

Any questions please dial 010-84225695.

The Year of Russia 'Petr's' out

By He Jianwei

China and Russia held a closing ceremony for the Year of Russia in China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Thursday night, during the 11th meeting of the Chinese premier and the Russian prime minister from November 9 to 10.

The Year of Russia has pro-

moted the bilateral relations between China and Russia. More than 200 activities were held during the Year of Russia, according to Li Hui, Chinese assistant foreign minister.

A series of activities including the National Exhibition on Russia and the Sino-Russian Investment Promotion Week will also be held

during the prime minister's visit.

The National Exhibition on Russia kicked off in the Beijing International Trade Center from November 8 to 13. There are over 500 booths covering an area of 10,900 square meters, displaying cutting-edge products and technologies from hi-tech industries with over 1,500 Russian participants.

The Sino-Russian Investment Promotion Week has started Thursday and will feature 13 promotion activities aimed at boosting bilateral investment.

The opening ceremony for the Year of Russia in China was held in Beijing March 21. The Year of China will be held in Russia next year.

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Art auction for needy kids

By Qiu Jiaoning

Art Auction for Charity, an event that aims to raise cash for needy kids, will get underway today at the Beijing Central Art Gallery (BCAG). The special event will include a charity auction of selected art works, with proceeds going to Operation Blessing's Adopt-a-Student programme.

Robert Mason, director of BCAG said that the idea for the art auction came about after discussions with Tenbridge Financial Planners for Expatriates and Operation Blessing International (OBI) in China, a very respected international charity that gives help and brings hope to others in need. "The area that we decided to concentrate on is OBI's Adopt-

A-Student Programme, which raises money to send children to school," said Mr Mason.

Famous artists, such as Ji Xiaofeng, Chen Yu, Yu Da, Yin Jun, Yin Kun and others have donated some of their works to be auctioned off.

"There's currently a tremendous amount of interest in the vibrant Chinese art market and we thought it would be a great way to raise money, whilst at the same time increasing public awareness for such a good cause," said Mr Mason, a British gallery director in Beijing.

It is the second annual Art Auction for Charity to be held in his gallery. "One of the commitments we decided upon before

opening the gallery was to support a charity, especially one that was active in the area of helping children," said Mr Mason. "We wanted to give something back to the wider community, as a thank you for the way we have been received by others since coming to China."

According to a statement on OBI's website (<http://www.obchina.org/index.cfm>), 800 yuan can provide a scholarship for one disabled child to attend a special needs school for an entire year. 10,000 RMB can upgrade a rural school or an urban migrant-run school to include a library, a medical clinic, and a media classroom. 40,000 RMB can build much-needed

classrooms for a primary school in Gansu.

"It can certainly make you stop and think when you realize that it doesn't require a fortune to make a commitment that can have such a positive effect," said Robert. The event aims to increase OBI's sponsorship and to raise as much money as possible for the Adopt-A-Student Programme.

OBI has a 25-year history as a non-profit leader in 96 countries. Instead of importing a host of foreign personnel and a hefty overhead, it has been training a staff of Chinese non-profit professionals. Since 2002, OBI has substantially assisted more than 2,000 children through educational scholarships.

African art store as a cultural tie



Elyse introducing the African craftworks to visitors.

Photo by Zhu Kuo

By Jackie Zhang

A small African art store in Huaxia Folk Culture Garden in Gaobeidian Village, Chaoyang District is run by Rakotonindrina Gabriel Elyse from Madagascar. He opened the museum with two of his classmates in Beijing, in a bid to teach Chinese people about African countries and culture.

Elyse did a postgraduate degree in tourism management at Beijing International Studies University. After graduation, he left Beijing and started the art store earlier this year with his friend. "Before I left my country, I used to work in the ministry of Commerce. However, after my graduation I found that the Chinese market is bigger with more opportunities so I decided to work in that direction with some Chinese former classmates and chose African culture and craftwork as a major," Elyse said.

In Elyse's art store, there are different kinds of African craftworks, which are all from African countries like Madagascar and Zimbabwe.

Since the store opened more and more people have popped in for a look, although few still actually buy anything. "The first step is always difficult," said Elyse,

Outside the store, Elyse and his partner have prepared a pavilion for people to rest and relax at. Usually, visitors or owners of other stores in the garden gather together, drinking and chatting.

"I opened the store because I realized that Chinese people know very little about Africa," said Elyse, "Each year, increasing numbers of African students like me come to study in China. We know about China, but few Chinese people know about Africa. I hope that they will learn a bit about African culture by coming here."

Taste the city of Venice through its shapes and colors

By Chu Meng

Thirteen contemporary artists from Veneto and Lombardy in Italy are in Beijing to present 'Shapes and Colors of Venice' - a ten-day exhibition in the Italian Embassy.

In this exhibition, artists who live and operate in Veneto and Lombardy are going to show their paintings, sculptures, glassware, and poetry in a new version of an exhibition displayed in Shanghai in November 2005 at the Shanghai Art Museum. The aim is for them to share their research with the artists and art aficionados of this country, especially the desire to remember roots and recognize exchanges and synergies with other worlds.

Maria Weber, the president of the institute said at a small ceremony in the embassy Wednesday night "It is perhaps thanks to the Venetian Marco Polo's tale that China remains engraved in our eyes and talks as a land to cross through, to know and to consider as a potential friend."

Both Venice and Beijing are cities rich in art and history. Endowed with a millennial culture, they are doors facing east and west open to new possible scenarios of cooperation and peace. Art and poetry that have always been open fields to imagination, which can actually envisage new ways of common development with the utmost respect of ancient and present differences and affinities.



Colorful masks from Venice are the most beautiful part of the exhibition.

Photo provided by Italian Embassy

Award winning author talks at Bookworm

By He Jianwei

Thomas Friedman, the author of 'The World is Flat', will give a talk about his new book at the Bookworm on Sunday.

In 'The World is Flat', Friedman describes the unplanned cascade of technological and social shifts that effectively leveled the economic world, as lightning-swift advances in technology and communications put people all over the globe in touch as never before.

Friedman's list of 'flatteners' includes the fall of the Berlin Wall; the rise of Netscape and the dotcom boom that led to a trillion dollar investment in fiber optic cable; the emergence of common software platforms and open source code enabling global collaboration; and the rise of outsourcing, off shoring, supply chaining and in sourcing. Friedman says these flatteners converged around the year 2000, and "created a flat world: a global, web-enabled plat-

form for multiple forms of sharing knowledge and work, irrespective of time, distance, geography and increasingly, language."

Thomas Friedman won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, his third Pulitzer for his reports in The New York Times. He became the paper's foreign-affairs columnist in 1995. Mr. Friedman was awarded the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for international reporting (from Lebanon) and the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for international reporting (from Israel). Previously, he served as chief economic correspondent in the Washington bureau and before that he was the chief White House correspondent.

His book, From Beirut to Jerusalem, won the National Book Award for non-fiction in 1989 and The Lexus and the Olive Tree won the 2000 Overseas Press Club award for best nonfiction book on foreign policy and has been published in 27 languages.

Movie buffs flock to student film festival

By Annie Wei

Thousands of film fans and movie buffs flocked to the fifth International Student Film and Video Festival this week.

More than 550 films, including documentaries and animated movies from 40 countries were entered into the festival, which is held every November and is supported by the International Association of Film and Television Schools. Around 350 films were entered from mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and a further 201 from other countries.

Each selected film will be screened twice in the theatre of Beijing Film Academy with student directors introducing their movies to the audience.

For more information, call 8204-1954 or visit <http://www.isfvf.cn>

Artist links language to food

By Gan Tian

Spanish artist Miralda brought his 'Sabores y Lenguas (Flavor and Language)' project to China this week, putting on a lecture and discussion at the Institute Cervantes of Beijing on Wednesday evening.

At the lecture, Miralda introduced this project that he is working on with the Cuisine Culture Museum. 'Sabores y Lenguas' gets different groups of people to take part in describing the memories of unforgettable food.

The 'Sabores y Lenguas' was started at the 2000 Hannover Cuisine Fair. It opened to the public on April 13, 2002 in Miami, USA and was taken across Latin America before finally arriving in Beijing.

Art puts spotlight on women's woes

By Chen Shasha

A unique art exhibition, 'Post Nora', which featured the works of Norwegian and Chinese female artists, has opened at the Beijing Today Art Museum. In the exhibition, modern artists from the two countries display works reflecting how they view issues and problems in the world.

The theme of the exhibition originated from Henrik Ibsen's drama, A Doll's House.

The exhibition will run until December 3, at the Beijing Today Art Museum, No. 32 Baizhiwan Road, Chaoyang District (Just south of China World Trade Center).

Italian ballet stars promise to wow the crowds

By Chu Meng

The Teatro Alla Scala Ballet Company of Milan pays its first visit to China this week. They will perform the classic ballet, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' tonight (November 10) and tomorrow night at the Beijing Poly Theatre. It is one of the major events ending the one-year cultural exchange event, the 'Year of Italy in China', organized by the Italian Embassy of China.

The ballet will team up with the renowned China Philharmonic Orchestra, to put on a performance that organizers claim will leave the audience "enchanted".

Prepare your cabin baggage for new EU security regulations



Passengers checking in (left) and a sign informing fliers about new security rules for hand luggage on aircrafts (right), at Frankfurt airport, Germany.



From November 6, passengers on all flights originating in the EU are allowed to take a limited quantity of liquids on board.

CFP Photos

By Qiu Jiaoning

New air passenger security regulations came into effect in the EU on Monday, limiting the amount of liquids passengers can carry in their baggage on flights destined for EU airports. The new regulations focus on liquids travelers may carry and the maximum size of carry-on baggage.

Only liquids in 100ml containers and kept in a single one litre transparent plastic bag are authorized in the cabin (approximately 20cmx20cm). The containers must be placed and transported in a clear plastic, resealable zip lock bag having a maximum volume of one liter. Medications and special dietary requirements, including baby formula, are permitted in carry-on

baggage if needed on board.

EU-wide restrictions on the size of hand luggage allowed on board planes will come into effect next April. However British airports, and Germany's Frankfurt airport, one of the biggest in Europe, have already announced that the size of carry-on baggage is limited to 56x45x25 centimeters and only one bag is permitted per passenger. This bag must be removed from carry-on baggage and presented to security personnel at the checkpoint for separate X-raying.

These new regulations apply to all flights departing from or via any of the 25 countries in the EU as well as Switzerland, Norway and Iceland, regardless of destination.

Which products are restricted?

Liquids, gels and pastes: mineral water, perfumes, drinks, lotions, creams, shower gels, shampoo, mascara, liquid lip balm, soup, syrup, aerosols, toothpaste, liquid soap, deodorants and any other item of similar consistency.

Selected items must be presented separately for screening at airport security checkpoints:

1. Large electrical appliances: laptops, large digital cameras, DVD players,
2. A transparent plastic bag containing the jars and tubes of liquid, gel or paste,
3. Liquid food products for babies,
4. Medication accompanied

by a prescription or medical certificate,

5. Coats.

For duty-free purchases:

The traveler may take duty free items through the security checkpoint, if purchased on the day of the flight in one of the shops beyond the security checkpoint of an EU airport or on board an aircraft of an EU airline. These items must be packed in a clear plastic bag, which is sealed by shop personnel after purchase. The sales slip with date and location of the purchase must be inside the bag and it must be possible to check the slip without reopening the bag. In all other cases, any liquids purchased will be confiscated.

ASK Beijing Today

1. Where can I get a good camera at a decent price?

Beijing Today asked some photojournalists for their recommendations. They said it's best to go to Beijing Sheying Qicaicheng (北京摄影器材城, Beijing Photography Equipment Town), near Wukesong subway station. The cameras they use cost around 50,000 yuan.

2. Where can I buy snowboarding and ski equipment?

Normally, snowboarding and skiing places provide all the gear except gloves. If they do not have the right size of shoes for you, you may have to buy some. Most ski places have shops that sell everything from gloves to shoes, skis and goggles.

3. What legal paperwork do foreigners need if they want to live in Beijing?

Living in Beijing for a long period is not difficult. You simply need to get the correct visa and register at the nearest PSB station to your home.

4. We rent an apartment in a hutong. The weather is getting colder, our landlord said the heating was broken and it was too expensive for him to fix it, and he suggested that we use electric heating. How much does an electric heater cost?

We suggest you call the heating company to fix the pipes instead of using an electric heater. First of all, it should not be too difficult to fix. Second, using electric heaters is much more expensive. Another thing, most landlords in Beijing pay for the heating. So it may be that your landlord does not want the heating bills and wants you to fork out for the electricity instead.

An electric heater costs between 200 and 500 yuan, depending on the make.

(By Wei Ying)

N W BEIJING TODAY

Autumn Promotion

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Kohei Sugiura's new books in Chinese edition

Wind and

A half-century of magazine design

By He Jianwei

How many times have you decided to pick up a book or a magazine and read it, because its design attracted you at the first glimpse? How many times have you complained about the mismatching designs of a book or a magazine, although its content is your taste?

The Japanese design guru, Kohei Sugiura, has brought his works of magazine design to China this November. Kohei Sugiura, typographic designer and Professor Emeritus at Kobe Design University, was born in Tokyo in 1932. Through his unique ways of creating images of the conscious realm, he continues to have a profound influence on many creative artists.

"I wish that all design works have the power of life, like the wind and lightning."

Coming into the room with a Chinese greeting "Nihao", Kohei Sugiura looked small but energetic, wearing his typical dark blue Chinese style coat.

His magazine design exhibition, *Wind and Lightning: A Half-Century of Magazine Design by Kohei Sugiura*, was introduced to China by Lu Jingren, a Chinese book designer.

"Wind, like the gale blowing today in Beijing, is sudden but full of energy and power. It will bring more oxygen to the people. Lightning, which also occurs suddenly, is full of vitality. It will bring a great shock to the world. I wish that all the design works have the power of life, like the wind and lightning," said Kohei Sugiura.

Most of the magazines that Kohei Sugiura has designed are related with the humanities and art and have rarely been completely commercial. "A magazine is a type of media, which can influence people to gain new knowledge, new concepts, and new thoughts," said Kohei Sugiura.

One of Kohei Sugiura's features is the application of Chinese characters. "Chinese characters look like a maze, and contain the concept of moving, that is to say, everything is moving. Those characters can illuminate the beauty of moving, like the moon's waxing and waning," he said.

In October 2004, the Ginza Graphic Gallery (GGG) in Tokyo invited Kohei Sugiura to put on an exhibition of his work over five decades. After that he had a traveling exhibition in Japan in 2005, then in South Korea. When Kohei Sugiura was advised to bring his exhibition to China, he agreed without a hesitation.

"I treat a book like a house. It will have a door, a restroom, the bedroom, the kitchen, and the back door. We should pour the concept of time and space into the book."

On the third floor, two huge books weighing 70 kilograms each are exhibited. They are eight times the size of the original



Object



The Quarterly



The Monthly Nihongo



Kohei Sugiura

books. Kohei Sugiura makes delicate designs on the spines of the books, which look like show windows.

"I treat a book like a house. It will have a door, a restroom, the bedroom, the kitchen, and the back door. We should pour the concept of time and space into the book," he explained.

Kohei Sugiura's world of magazine design is a kaleidoscope of strange sights and impressions. The design of the magazine *Urban House* is a good example. The magazine covers the latest developments in avant-garde architecture. The graphics are drawn using a 3D drafting technique in red and blue streaks. When you wear a pair of 3D glasses the images on the pages jump out at you. The series of 3D design includes 12 volumes, but only two are showcased in this exhibition.

Kohei Sugiura works with different variations of objects, pictures and videos. Wherever you are in the exhibition, you will hear traditional oriental music, the beats of a drum, the ripple of a river and the ring of a bell.

"Everybody has five fingers...and all the fingers together can be made into a fist."

If you have a quick glimpse at his resume, you will notice that before Kohei Sugiura became a book designer at the age of 38,

he concentrated on architectural design. He explained that all kinds of arts can communicate with each other, "Everybody has five fingers," he said. "The index finger represents art, the middle finger represents music, the ring finger represents drama and the little finger represents literature. All of them can develop individually, but all the fingers together can be made into a fist."

Kohei Sugiura gave some advice to aspiring young designers and editors. "I could learn a lot from the younger generation, but sometimes I have to criticize them also," he said. "They should ask themselves why they designed what they have. Design is a type of

The handwriting of Chinese characters, unique in character, renowned in their intricate craftsmanship, reflect a vibrant thriving tradition that has untouched through the ages.

From archery contests to the phenomenon of birth to the each significant moment in one way or another, looks

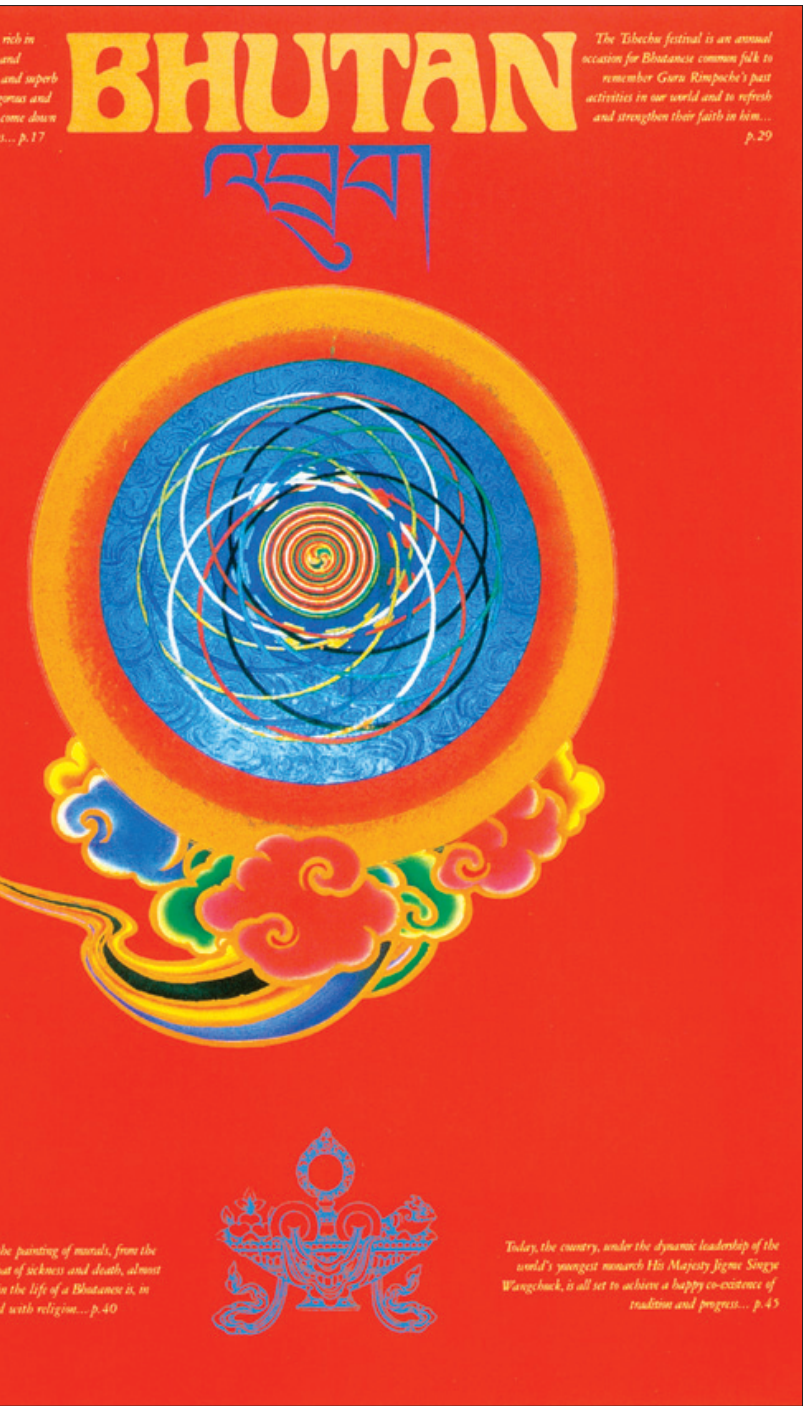
Asian Culture

social world and the world

He also magazines modern phenomenon see an art the content

Lightning

n by Kohei Sugiura



Photos provided by Today Art Museum

About the exhibition

Wind and Lightning: A Half-Century of Magazine Design by Kohei Sugiura, kicked off this Monday at the Today Art Museum in Beijing, and will open at the Yachang Art Museum in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province on December 4.

The exhibition takes a retrospective look at Kohei Sugiura's glowing achievements in magazine design over the past 50 years. Through five decades Kohei Sugiura has been a revolutionary innovator in all aspects of graphic design, with a core focus on book design, editorial work and typography. The show will feature roughly 500 of the more than 2,000 works he has produced in magazine design.

On the occasion of the exhibition, Kohei Sugiura's two books in Chinese have been published: *Books, Text, and Design in Asia: Dialogues between Kohei Sugiura and his Asian Counterparts*, and *Wind and Lightning: A Half-Century of Magazine Design by Kohei Sugiura*.

Where: Today Art Museum, Pingod Garden, No 32 Baiziwang Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 9am-5pm, until November 23
Tel: 5876 0011 ext. 152

Comments

"With whirlwind force, he has tirelessly, ardently and powerfully created a colossal body of works in this area. But it is not only in sheer volume that Sugiura is remarkable. The most distinguishing feature of his works is the indelible clarity of his unique design vocabulary, a profound conflation of emotion and logic always ahead of the times."

— **Shoji Usuda, the Chief Editor of *Design magazine in Japan***

"Kohei Sugiura's design is full of wisdom and innovation. He has influenced several generations

of designers in Japan and other Asian countries, because of his unique combination of preciseness combined with an oriental philosophy."

— **Lu Jingren, Chinese book designer**

"Sugiura's pan-Asian perspective, his brilliant use of Eastern motifs, and what one might term his 'Asian grammar of design' have made him a seminal influence on designers not only in Japan but also in India, Chinese mainland and Taiwan and South Korea."

— **Niti Bhan, Indian design gurus**



The Quarterly



Scenes in the exhibition



Toshi-Jutaku, a monthly journal of urban housing



Auto-organisation



Asian Pacific Culture

English as a Second F*cking Language

By Sterling Johnson
Paperback: 96 pages
Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin (June 15, 1996)
Language: English
Synopsis:

For author Sterling Johnson, swearing is essential to effective communication. With this in mind, he developed a guidebook that teaches readers how to curse effectively in detail,

with numerous examples taken from everyday life. The guide teaches non-native speakers the basics of swearing effectively in English while offering native speakers a wide variety of new twists and refinements on classic obscenity. Examples range from the gross to the witty, but they're always practical and they always evoke a laugh. Definitely not for the squeamish among us, this book is an informative look at taboo words and expressions.
— Amazon.co.uk

Surely the good people of Beijing are far too polite to need the sort of filth this book is peddling.

In the English language, swearing is essential to effective communication. Whether you want to succeed in business, school, or social circles, a strong command of vocabulary is absolutely necessary. *English as a Second F*cking Language (ESF*L)* is the perfect way for non-native speakers to learn the basics of swearing. At the same time, it also offers native speakers a wide variety of twists and new refinements. Page after page, *ESF*L* provides a smorgasbord of swearing synonyms designed to boost your vocabulary. And when you're finished reading, our *Final F*cking Exam* is the perfect test of your swearing skills. You'll be surprised by how much you've learned!

— Addall.com

So this book could be a kind of finishing school for Beijing ren who want to make it in the west as sailors, truck drivers, builders and those visiting Ireland?

Learners of English need it. They hear and see "taboo" words and phrases everywhere, especially if they are in a country where English is spoken, but nobody will teach them how to use it — or not use it.

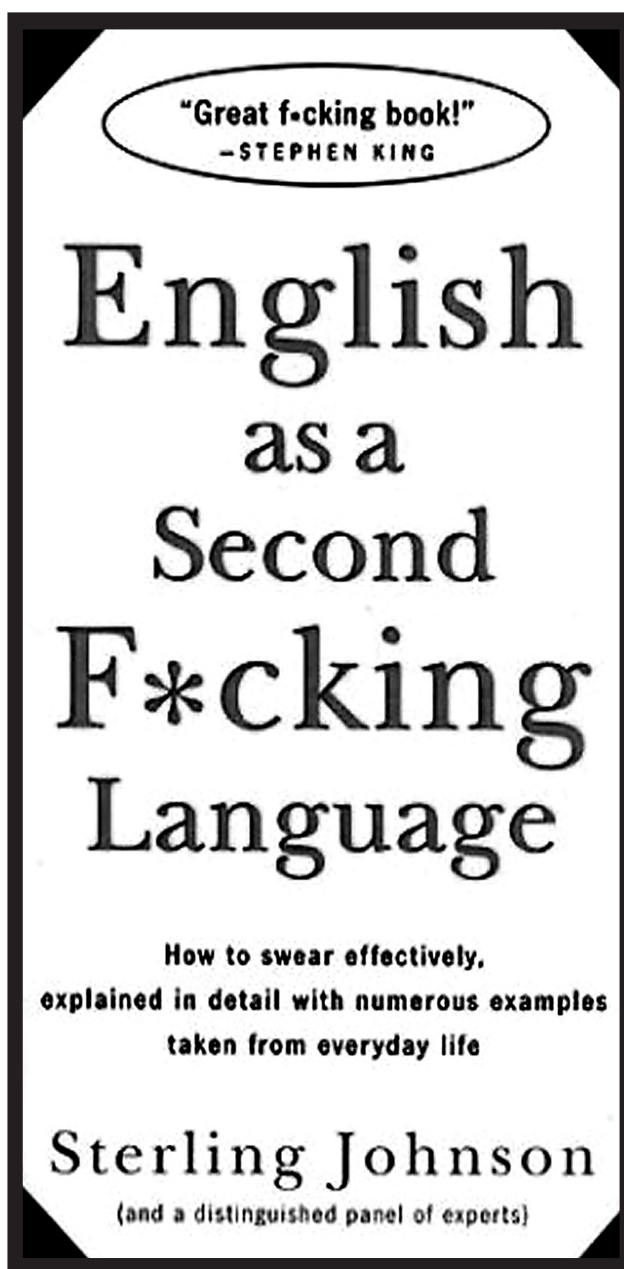
It's hard for language learners to get straightforward information about it because, well, it's a taboo subject! Very little has been written about it for language learners, yet nearly all native speakers use it and know about its subtleties.

Having control of taboo language means power. If you know when, how, where and why to use it — or not use it — you have more power over your interactions with others than if you don't.

It's about f*cking time someone put this information [out there]!

Even native speakers could make use of it. Parents and teachers: do you have any idea how the average 12-year-old talks when you're not around??? You can use this site to open dialogue with young people about when it's okay and when it's not okay to use explicit language.

— Lonnie Chu



Do you think ESL teachers in Asia should include the book in their curriculum then?

I do not teach cursing in my classes for two reasons; one I do not like to use these words myself (though they do slip out occasionally) and it is rude, secondly students tend to misuse these words in the same way that they misuse idioms.

— EFL geek in Korea

What's the student perspective?

A reader from Moscow, Russia: "A great book for a foreign person. If you are not a native English speaker — and want to *really* understand what these f*cking Americans are talking about — this book is

a must-read."

This isn't one of those Chinglish things is it? Is this real swearing that would stand you right at a Liverpool dockyard?

"Great f*cking book!"

— Stephen King

The Steven King? Master of the macabre and one who probably knows a scary word when he sees one? Is the rest of America backing the opinions of the rubber faced scaremeister?

America swears by it! In the English language, swearing is essential to effective communication. Whether you want to succeed in business, school, or social circles, a

strong command of vocabulary is absolutely necessary. Just imagine a stranger to our shores, trying to comprehend the following conversation: John: Mary, would you like to attend the opera this evening? Mary: F*cking — A. should I wear my black dress? John: Why the f*ck not? Mary: F*cked if I know — Oh, f*ck! I just remembered. It got f*cked up in the wash. John: Well, f*ck the opera. Let's stay home and f*ck. Mary: Good f*cking idea. *English as a Second F*cking Language (ESF*L)* is the perfect way for nonnative speakers to learn the basics of swearing. At the same time, it also offers native speakers a wide variety of twists and new refinements. Page after page, *ESF*L* provides a smorgasbord of swearing synonyms designed to boost your vocabulary—everything from the conventional d*mn and sh*t to a host of more inventive terms that would make any truck driver blush.

— Amazon.com

Anything else I should know about this unusual addition to my stack of dictionaries?

Jeffrey Whitmore (a California based freelance writer) is currently writing the screenplay for Sterling Johnson's *English as a Second F*cking Language*.

Wow, that is interesting...

The only other book on sale in America with an asterisked 'f*ck' in the title is *Go West Young F*cked-Up Chick* by Rachel Resnick.

Great news. Who the hell wrote this book anyway? Some naughty f*cking schoolboy?

World-renowned for his innovative lectures and workshops, Professor Sterling Johnson has been teaching English as a second language for over twenty years. He now lives in Pacific Grove, California, where he enjoys a "nice f*cking day" as much as the next fellow.

Oct. 19, 2000: Sterling Johnson wrote: "The book is now published by St. Martin's Press and has also been licensed to Cosmos Culture, Ltd., in Taiwan. So far they've published two different Chinese editions, one of them illustrated with line drawings."

(By Gareth George)

Local shelf

The Distant Land of My Father

By Bo Caldwell

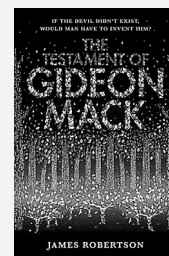
Harvest Books, 400 pages, 105 yuan

Bo Caldwell's sepia-toned evocation of 1930s Shanghai is lovely and physical, and given the built-in drama of its setting, this first novel ought to have the vividness of a classic movie. Yet the characters remain oddly flat while world events swirl around them. Great chunks of historical exposition seem largely undigested. In a sense, however, these shortcomings are beside the point. *The Distant Land of My Father* is above all a tragic romance, albeit one with an unusual love interest. The protagonist is so besotted with Shanghai that his wife and daughter are scarcely as real to him as the city itself.

Testament of Gideon Mack

By James Robertson

Hamish Hamilton Ltd, 400 pages, 165 yuan



A son of the manse, Mack has grown up in an austere and chilly house, dominated by a joyless father. Unable to believe in God, he is far more attracted by the forbidden cartoons on television. Father and son clash fatally one day and it may be guilt, which drives Mack to take up a career in the Church. This minister, who doesn't believe in God, the Devil or an afterlife, one day discovers a standing stone in the middle of a wood where previously there had been none. Unsure what to make of this apparition, Mack's life begins to unravel dramatically until the moment when he is swept into a mountain stream, which pours down a chasm before disappearing underground....

Available:

Beijing Bookworm

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang
Tel: 6586 9507

Anatomy of a Rose: Exploring the Secret Life of Flowers

By Sharman Apt Russell

Perseus Publishing, 232 pages, 91 yuan

The flower, paleontologists tell us, is an ancient innovation in the endless struggle of adaptation and survival; the earliest fossil flowers date to some 120 million years ago, long after the arrival of other forms of plant life (and, for that matter, insects). Their arrival heralded a new way for plants to go forth and multiply that was so successful that countless animal and insect species now depend on flowers for food, and flowering plants have spread across the face of the earth.

Available:

Foreign Languages Bookstore

Where: 235 Wangfujing Dajie
Tel: 6512 6903

(By Han Manman)

By Gareth George

In economics, there is such a thing as the McDonald's standard – a rule that measures the affordability of a standard McDonald's meal and uses it as a push off point to compare the standards of living in different countries. In the spirit of completely misunderstanding this, we sent two journalists on a mission to uncover Beijing's standard of living, based on the quality of burgers that can be procured. These were then compared to a standard Big Mac and French fries meal, with the Big Mac and French fries being given a base score of five out of 10. Tired, but noticeably chubbier of cheek, this is the clap trap they came back with.

Strange setting, bad boy burger

By Tom Mackenzie

Take Five, let's face it, is a terrible name for a restaurant. When I popped in on Monday, reading the sign above the door made me think about two British boy bands (Take That and Five, for those of you pretending not to know what I'm talking about) that I'd rather not think about before munching on a manly burger. Inside, things didn't get much better. In decorative terms at least, Take Five seems to be as unsure about its style as Robbie Williams is about his sexuality. Black and white photographs of 'Old Beijing' hang on one wall while plastic model planes line the other. And the whole place is lit with red, yellow and orange lights giving it an undeniably seedy feel. Thankfully there were a few, crucial, redeeming features. The service was spot on and the burger, a homemade, quality beef patty topped with a strip of mature cheddar cheese and gherkins and squeezed into a decent tasting burger bun, was great. In fact it was so good, I'd eaten half of it before remembering I was meant to take a photo. Hence the picture of the half munched burger. For which I apologise.

Cost: 38 yuan for the cheese burger

McDonald's Rating: 8/10

Take Five

Where: Guanghua Xili, south of Mexican Wave, Chaoyang

Open: 10am-12pm

Tel: 6437 6743



Take Five's typical burger

Photo provided by Take Five



Grandma's Blue Cheese Burger

Photo provided by Grandma's Kitchen

A Middle American wet dream

By Tom Mackenzie

Sitting in the soulless corporate monolith that is Jianwai SOHO, Grandma's Kitchen is a restaurant with an American home cooking theme that's more Disney than Denver. A decorative obsession with red and white check and all things apple pie gives the place an amusingly artificial feel. But

thankfully the Middle American wet dream look doesn't detract from the food – if my grandmother cooked burgers like this when I was a kid, a US\$10 bill wouldn't have been the only reason for paying the old dear those twice-yearly visits.

The blue cheese burger, a homemade chunky meat patty topped with Stilton cheese, caramelized red

onions and stuffed between two halves of a fluffy burger bun has got to be one of Beijing's best. Follow it up with an artery clogging chocolate fudge brownie crowned with cream, ice cream and a glacier cherry, and you'll be praising the person that let this grandma out of the old people's home and into the kitchen.

Cost: 45 yuan/Blue Cheese Burger

McDonald's Rating: 9/10

Grandma's Kitchen

Open: 10 am-11pm

Branch 1: 11A Xiushui Nanjie, Jianguomenwai, Chaoyang

Tel: 6503 2893

Branch 2: B/O103 Jianwai SOHO, No. 39, East Third Ring Road, Chaoyang

Tel: 5869 3055/3056

Burger me!

Whistle and bell free

By Gareth George

Sitting in Steak & Eggs the other day, a middle aged woman walked in with her group. "It's not very inviting, is it?" she remarked. As it happened, she and her entourage didn't get past the magazine rack. "Let's go next door to Grandma's," one of them said. And they did. For the rest of us, we can be thankful that Chef Paul doesn't know what interior designers are for.

Everyone knows Steak & Eggs do a fine burger, but for something really special, check out the sandwiches. The patty melt is a homemade burger patty (with added herby green bits in it!) so juicy that it really reminds one how starved of real quality junk food Beijing is. The toasted rye bread makes the patty melt, and lend a certain sophistication, but essentially this is a great big mouthwatering brick of a burger, with caramelized onions and oozy cheese.

And until Chef Paul comes around to the merits of intimate mood lighting, fancy drapes, bells, whistles and 'the sort of things middle aged women like', he'll be charging just 39 yuan for it (with French fries). Difficult to argue with logic like that.

Patty melt: 39 yuan

McDonald's rating: 9/10

Steak & Eggs

Branch 1: 5 Xiushui Nanjie (Bar Street behind Friendship Store, near US Embassy)

Jinguomenwai, Chaoyang

Tel: 6592 8088/8788

Branch 2: 8 Laiguangying Donglu (50m west of the WAB, south of airport), Chaoyang

Tel: 8470 1550/1559

Open: 7am-9:30pm

Noob crashmat

By Gareth George

The Den seems to have been colonized by our cousins from Africa here for the summit. Takes me back to my first days in Beijing, when the bar provided a low impact landing in China's capital. Cheap beer, live sport, western food done adequately and inexpensively. Perhaps it is this image as the overseas crash mat that makes the Den so beloved of tourists and noobs and so reviled by everyone else. Whatever. The police were hovering around it last Saturday, but even that couldn't disrupt the genial atmosphere. Fact is, there's something about the way the Den goes about its business that instills comfort in those suffering from China shock. You order a drink; it arrives. Some sport finishes; some more sport comes on.

The Den burger epitomizes this. You're far from home, terrified that when you ask for a 'burger' you'll end up with some mutant foreign muck that leaves you whimpering for your mother. Then it arrives. Burger? Check. Cheese? Check. Egg? Check. Salad and fries? Right there. You could almost be back home were it not for the bloody dice games. Cheap too.

Den burger: 30 yuan

McDonald's rating: 7/10

The Den

Where: 4 Gonti Donglu, (next to City Hotel), Chaoyang

Open: 24 hours

Tel: 6592 6290

Protein packed

By Tom Mackenzie

The new Frank's Place is a big, loud, beery American style boozery with a focus on cheap pints, pool and televised sport. If you want a quiet evening out with the girlfriend then give this place a miss.

But if you're happy to shout for service, swig bargain beer and munch burgers packed with enough protein for the entire Beijing Devils rugby squad, it could be the place.

On first inspection the burger looks hard to beat. It has the height so lacking in a soggy McDonald's burger and is packed with a fried egg, bacon and layer of cheese. The burger comes with a plate of fist-sized potato wedges and, slightly bizarrely, a bowl of red cabbage.

But what this vegan's nightmare of a burger has in style, it lacks in taste. The beef patty is overcooked and the bacon chewy and fatty. And it's all shoved between two halves of a burger bun made, in true traditional Chinese style, with sugar. Burger loving, hip swinging crooner Elvis would have been ashamed.

Cost: 45 yuan the cheese and bacon burger

McDonald's Rating: 6/10

Frank's Place

Where: Jiangtai Xi Lu, West of the Rosedale Hotel, Lido Area

Open: 11am-2am

Tel: 6437 8399



Frank's burger

Photo provided by Frank's Place

Mr Creosote's nightmare



Hard Rock's legendary 10 oz Burger

Photo provided by Hard Rock Café Beijing

By Gareth George

Like Maccy Ds herself, the Hard Rock is a comfort zone for those who find themselves in a foreign country, but don't actually want to act like they're in a foreign country. For many, going to the Hard Rock is like having a surrogate mother all over the world – sure it's a bit bland, but you know what you're going to get. No nasty surprises like you get with those strange foreign types. Perhaps I'm being a bit harsh. After all, the service at the Hard Rock shows up my mother for the lazy, inept chef she actually is (it's not so much the food as the attitude).

The Hard Rock's legendary 10oz burger pretty much deserves its rep. It's a monster – topped with bacon, two slices of cheese and an onion ring. Better have both hands holding your sides together when they present you with the bill though. It's a great burger but that little piece of paper with '99rmb' could be to Beijing ren what 'wafer thin mints' are to Mr Creosote.

Legendary 10 oz burger: 99 yuan

McDonald's rating: 8/10

Hard Rock Café Beijing

Where: 1/F Landmark Towers, 8 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang

Open: Sun-Thu, 11:30am-1am next day; Fri-Sat 11:30am-2am the next day

Tel: 6590 6688 ext 2571

Thanksgiving buffet

Celebrate the true American tradition on November 23, 2006 with a talk-of-the-town buffet dinner at the Great Wall Hotel. 235 yuan per adult, 50% off for children aged 3-9 years old, subject to 15% service charge. For details, call 6590 5566 ext. 2117.



Special price

New Balance jogging shoes at Sai Te shopping center (22 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang) will be discounted until November 12. For details, call 6512 4488.



Present

Spend over 800 yuan at the Nike counter in Zhong You shopping mall (176 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng) and get a cap or bag for free. For details, call 6601 8899.



50% off

Get 50% off the entire autumn range at Piao Liang shopping center (68 Anlilu, Chaoyang) until November 21. For details, call 6495 0198.



50% off

Get 50% off all dishes at Tong Le Wan hot pot restaurant (6 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian), excluding drinks and seafood on November 13. For details, call 5158 2121.



32% off

Eat at Mao Jia Fan Dian (3 Xidawanglu, Chaoyang) and get 32% off this weekend (the offer does not include drinks). For details, call 8599 9718.



30% off



Get 30% off children's clothes brand Arrow at the Modern Plaza (40 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian) until November 19. For details, call 6257 6688.

20% off



Get up to 20% off Playboy clothes at Shuang An shopping center (38 Beisanhuan Xilu, Haidian) until November 12. For details, call 8214 8000.

40% off



Get 40% off all Brand Byford clothes at Jian Yuan Yan Sha shopping mall (1 Yuandalu, Haidian). For details, call 8887 4616.

30% off



Get 30% off fashionable clothes brand Sefon at Chen Xi shopping store (1 Guomao Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang). Buy two items and get 40% off. For details, call 6505 6118.

30%-50% off

Get up to 50% off Fei Ni Di products in the Modern Plaza (40 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian) until November 16. For details, call 6257 6688.



20% off

Get 20% off DHC products until November 15. Five bags of face lotion worth 75 yuan will also be given as presents. For details, call 800 820 8820.



100 yuan voucher

Spend over 200 yuan at Bei Chen shopping mall (8 Anlilu Anwai, Chaoyang) and get a 100 yuan discount voucher. For details, call 6499 3263.



10%-20% off

Learn Yoga at Fan Yan Yoga club (Donghuanmen Sport Center, Dongcheng) and get 10%-20% off until November 15. For details, call 13910904540.



10% off

Spend over 100 yuan at Ma La Fang Cheng Shi (15 Xiuyuan, Huizhong Beilu, Chaoyang) and get 10% off the bill and a free dish of grilled shrimp. For details, call 6498 2798.



50% off

Play golf at Xing Kong Golf Garden (Youwaidajie, Nansanhuan, Fengtai) from 7am to 3pm and get 50% off. A two-hour game will set you back just 30 yuan. For details, call 6752 5938.



Free salad

French and Russian buffet dinner only 58-88 yuan per person at Wei Lan western food restaurant (27 Gulouwai Dajie, Wanwang building). Free salad bar, Monday-Friday 6pm-9pm, Saturday-Sunday, all day long. For details, call 8413 5540.



399 yuan voucher

Spend over 200 yuan at Mu Jin Yuan Korean barbecue restaurant (Huanjing Xinwen Building, Chongwen) and get a voucher worth 399 yuan. For details, call 6711 0707.



(By Terence Lu)

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New York city garbage sample

What do you think art is? A painting by Picasso? Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*? Or the *Blue Danube* by Strauss. However, for some people like Justin Gignac, who works in an advertising firm in New York City, garbage is a treasure.

Used coffee cups, discarded cigarette butts, chocolate bags, rotting garbage piled along the curbside. While most regard it as disgusting rubbish, Justin Gignac picks it up and sells it as a symbol of New York City on line.

The 26-year-old spends his evenings collecting garbage, neatly packing the refuse into clear plastic cubes. He marked the cube with his traditional label 'Garbage From New York City', seals the box with a sticker that has the date he went out and found the trash. He never mixes days. Each cube is sold on Gignac's website for the price of US\$50. So far, he has sold more than 800 and the cubes are in 41 states and 20 countries.

The idea for the cubes came to Gignac when he was in a

class at the School of Visual Arts, talking about package design. "I think packaging is really important," Gignac said, "You can sell anything, even garbage, if it's packaged right."

Early mornings and late nights are the best time for picking up garbage, before the street sweepers start cleaning the streets. Gignac is discerning about his trash: He only collects what's on the street, no digging into bags. Nothing slimy or wet makes it into a cube. No used condoms, latex gloves, or rotting

foods. No cigars and nothing that looks like it could be infested with some kind of critter.

In Gignac's opinion, "You can tell a lot about the city by its garbage."

He takes requests and does limited, special editions for major city events, picking up trash at events like the Republican National Convention.

However, the work that Gignac does is not revolutionary. It's part of a trend. Here are some other exponents of filthy art.

This isn't garbage - it's art

Nek Chand's Rock Garden

The Rock Garden located in the city of Chandigarh, India, is built with rocks, cinder and garbage and opened to the public in 1976.

The founder of the garden, Nek Chand, used to be a civil servant. Between 1958 and 1965, the retiring Nek Chand had nothing to do but walk the city collecting garbage. He put the refuse in a tent at the foot of Sivalic Hill at the north of the city. He built sculptures of birds, animals and people and some nonfigurative sculptures with the garbage. In 1972, when the city of Chandigarh was under extension project, the government found Chand's sculptures and supported him in building the Rock Garden.

The garden covers 100,000 square meters. At the entrance, is a white wall built of thousands of used electrical outlets. The paths in the garden were paved with cinders and asphalt. The crystal-like houses were built from used beer bottles. Around 5,000 sculptures of soldiers, dancing girls and animals were made from porcelain pieces and beer bottle lids. The sculptures are colorful and vivid, although some of the porcelain pieces are still marked with their brands.



Sculpture works of the Rock Garden



Gustav Metzger's works

'Rubbish' artistic works

Gustav Metzger is an artist and political activist who developed the concept of Auto-Destructive Art. His most famous work was made by spraying acid onto a sheet of nylon.

In June 2004, just when an exhibition was about to open the next day, a cleaner of the Tate Britain & Tate Modern museum swept a plastic bag with used paper inside and threw it away with other rubbish. The cleaner did not know that the plastic bag was a piece by Gustav Metzger. Metzger didn't get too huffy about it. He simply replaced the plastic bag and used papers for the exhibition.

Garbage sculpture fair

Every August 8, there is a Garbage Sculpture Fair at Iowa State, USA.

During the fair, volunteers and fairgoers help turn car parts, ladders, fence posts and other trash into sculptures. Artist David Williamson guides volunteers as they melt, hammer, mold and shape scrap metal using a homemade forge.

The metal comes from a volunteer river cleanup called Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition). This June 17 through 24 volun-

teers removed roughly 24 tons of garbage from Iowa rivers, including an estimated 12 tons of scrap metal.

Sculpture work takes place at the Orange Cone Arena near the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) State Fair building. Project AWARE and Riverse, the name for the volunteer-driven artwork, was organized by the DNR and intended to involve everyday citizens in natural resources stewardship. This year marks the third time Williamson has

worked with Project AWARE. Sculptures created in previous years are on display at the DNR's fair building.

Project AWARE began in 2002 on the Maquoketa River. Volunteers were invited to canoe down a different Iowa river each June. Participants joined for as little as a day or as long as the entire week, paddling the river, removing trash and learning about natural resources. Riverse aims to honor the work of AWARE volunteers while calling attention to water quality issues.

Garbage art travels Africa

A bicycle team consisted of painters, musicians, and sculptors from several countries traveled from Nairobi, Kenya to Tanzania. Along their way, they collected garbage and created works with these materials.

The studios work made these artists feel bored so they set up the team for garbage creation. They said that it was more interesting to present their works in this way than in museums; most of the African local people had not visited museums, then, we moved the museums to their homes. The African children made works with garbage and inner tubes of bicycles also stimulated these artists.

(By Jackie Zhang)

By Gan Tian

What to make of the iPod? You can fit your entire music collection on them, and they are cited as a reason why so many people describe their taste in music as 'eclectic' these days. My colleague likes the 'cocaine' whiteness of his 'sexy little' iPod. The 'I' stands for 'Ian'. Apparently.



1 Green-white striped coat for iPod

Provide your iPod with further apple credentials, by dressing it in green. The color of genius.

Available: F/1, Dinghao Computer Market, No 3, Haidian Dajie, Haidian
Cost: 250 yuan

2 I-duck

Dress your iPod like a duck. Don't ask why just do it. If you are following these instructions, you are a retard and deserve to die.

Available: F/1, Dinghao Computer Market, No 3, Haidian Dajie, Haidian
Cost: 300 yuan

3 Rainbow coat for Mini

Make your iPod look like it is supporting gay pride. You could also put eye liner on its fascia, then open its battery section and...perhaps you ought to use your imagination.

Available: F/4, Hailong Computer Market, No 1, Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian
Cost: 150 yuan

4 Colorful plastic shirts for Shuffle

Put a bit of color into your dull gray life with these color plastic shirts for iPod Shuffle. You may notice they have done little for this page, but it was printed in black and white, see?

Available: F/4, Hailong Computer Market, No 1, Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian
Cost: 99 yuan

5 Leather Nano purse

Too much money weighing you down? This is the perfect purchase for you! Not only is it totally unnecessary, but it's really expensive as well. Why not buy two?

Available: F/4, Hailong Computer Market, No 1, Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian
Cost: 799 yuan (leather)

6 Orange sweater for Shuffle

This is a sweater in case your Shuffle gets cold. What's wrong with you people?

Available: Apple Experiencing Center, No 52, West Fourth North Ring Road (Beisihuan Xilu), Haidian
Cost: 289 yuan

7 Fluffy coat for Shuffle

Make your Shuffle look like a hairy lump of gristle, then hang it from your neck. Perhaps small animals will assault you.

Available: F/1, Dinghao Computer Market, No 3, Haidian Dajie, Haidian
Cost: 69 yuan

8 iPod's seats

Say "Stand up!" It won't move. Say it louder, it still won't move. Because you have bought a really comfortable seat for your iPod and it will now refuse to listen to your orders. Be careful.

Available: Apple Experi-

encing Center, No 52, West Fourth North Ring Road, Haidian
Cost: 180 yuan

9 Key ring for Shuffle

Ever wanted to keep your Shuffle in your keys? Didn't think so. Now you can!

Available: Apple Experiencing Center, No 52, West Fourth North Ring Road, Haidian
Cost: 780 yuan

10 Nano belt

It's almost like Apple want you to look like an idiot.

Available: Apple Experiencing Center, No 52, West Fourth North Ring Road, Haidian
Cost: 450 yuan

11 Nano bikini

Who in their right mind would spend 800 yuan on beachwear for a jumped up walkman? This is insane.

Available: Apple Experiencing Center, No 52, West Fourth North Ring Road, Haidian
Cost: 800 yuan

12 Ishirt

The letter I is a Shuffle, which is stuck into a card in the shirt. That's why we call it 'Ishirt'. Fashionable I-shirt. Not T-shirt. Make it clear.

Available: <http://www.taobao.com>
Cost: 450 yuan

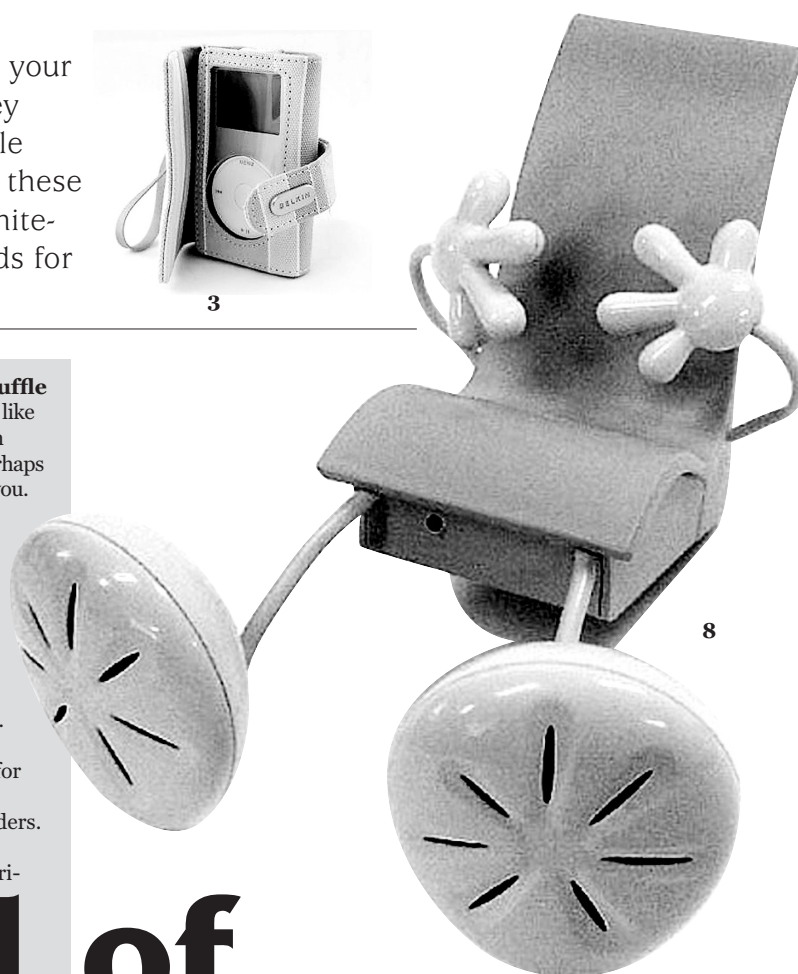
13 Special recommendation

If you are both an iPod and a denim fan you won't want to miss this. RedWire DLX iPod Jeans feature a red cable to connect to your iPod and built-in controls, and...are carpenter pants. Arrived in Beijing only last month.

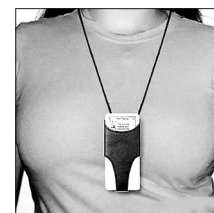
Available: Levi's, V118, Building 9, Jianwai SOHO, Chaoyang
Price: 2,699 yuan



3



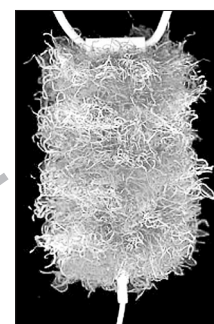
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5

Send emails to gantian@ynet.com if you have some good shopping suggestions. I will reward those we use with my undying love. And possibly some goodies.



CFP photo

Radiation protection

PC: Is your computer killing you?

With the growing global use of computer technology, will spending eight to 10 hours a day around computers jeopardize our future health?

The answer is almost certainly no. The physiological effect that computer radiation and its potential relationship to depression, cancer, and other neurological related syndromes warrants further research. But the fact that such questions are being asked at all shows how worried many of us have become about the danger of radiation coming from our computer screens and VDT (video display terminals) monitors.

"The radiation from monitors and VDT may cause cancer and other diseases – and then again it may not. Nobody knows for sure," said Dr Kjell Hansson Mild in Sweden who studied radiation risk in 11,000 computer users, "But what is known is that everybody should avoid unnecessary risks from this sort of radiation, called VLF (very low frequency) and ELF (extremely low frequency) emissions."

So what can we do?

Most people who use PCs or video terminals know that sitting too close to the screen increases the danger of radiation. But many do not realize that **the sides and rear of the monitor are more dangerous**. That means that even if you stay a safe two feet away from your own screen, you could be sitting too close to the side or rear of a co-worker's terminal.

So the first and most important rule is to keep a safe distance from the front, sides and back of all computer and VDT monitors. You should always be at least 14 inches from the screen, although 24 inches is preferred. And you should be more than 24 inches from the sides and back of any nearby monitor.

Next, you should make maximum use of computers that do not have regular cathode-ray tubes (CRTs). The radiation that is sometimes measured from monitors comes only from parts inside the CRT. This means that (laptop computers, which generally use liquid-crystal diode (LCD) displays, are completely safe alternatives to desktop computers.) If you do a lot of computing at home, a modern laptop equipped with a hard-disc drive might be a wise purchase.

Besides, you can install radiation shields over the screens of the PCs and VDTs in offices. This can reduce radiation coming from the front.

Scientists say that we are exposed to 100 million times more EMF (Electromagnetic) radiation, every day, than that in our grandparents' time – without cell phones, computers, televisions and all kinds of electronic items. EMF is an invisible co-factor in increasing daily stress levels and adrenal load and can significantly impair immune function and the body's natural healing ability. How can we protect ourselves from these invisible forces?

It is important to know that most electronic items do not use much power, so the EMFs surrounding them are small. Electronics that do emit strong EMF waves are computers, hair dryers, heating pads, microwave ovens, and cell phones. Some common symptoms of EMF-exposure are headaches, fatigue, nausea, and eyestrain.

Mobile: calls to take caution

Mobile phones bring convenience and peace of mind, but the benefit of always being contactable may have a downside.

Studies carried out by the UK government suggest that **mobile phone radiation can destroy brain cells and may lead to the early Alzheimer's disease**. Long exposure is said to destroy cells in parts of the rat brain important for memory, movement and learning and could possibly cause premature onset of illnesses such as Alzheimer's if the same effect was found in humans.

New research, conducted by Hungarian researchers, also shows that **men who regularly carry their mobiles near the groin, on a belt or in a pocket could potentially have their sperm count reduced by as much as 30 percent**.

While the jury is still out, Dr Chris Merry, from the Australian Medical Association (AMA), advises all of us to employ some cautionary measures when carrying the mobile phones. These include:

- Limiting the time you spend talking on your mobile phone;
- Store your mobile phone away from your groin area;
- Try storing your phone in your jacket pocket;
- If driving, try keeping your phone on the car seat next to you;
- Bear in mind mobiles still make regular transmission to maintain contact with radio towers even when they're not in use.

UV protection

The EMF's harm aside, people's health may be affected by the increasing exposure to ultraviolet radiation due to stratospheric ozone depletion.

You may enjoy having fun in the sun but without adequate protection, the UV (ultraviolet-B) radiation is damaging to your skin! Recent depletion of stratospheric ozone could lead to significant increases in UV reaching the Earth's surface. UV radiation is responsible for a wide range of potentially damaging human and animal health effects, primarily related to the skin, eyes, and immune system.

Over exposure to ultraviolet radiation can cause short-term health effects such as sunburn, wrinkles and sunspots. Long-term exposure to ultraviolet radiation can increase the risk of damage to the skin, which may cause skin cancer and eventually melanoma, as well as damage to the eyes, which may result in cataracts.

Children

Protection should begin as soon as a baby is born and continue throughout life. This is particularly important for people who have fair skin and light eyes. Babies should be kept out of direct sunlight and should wear sun protective clothing, including hats and sunglasses. While most sunscreen can be used on infants, it is better to only use a sunblock with zinc dioxide. Apply the sunblock only on exposed skin such as hands and face and only when exposure is unavoidable.

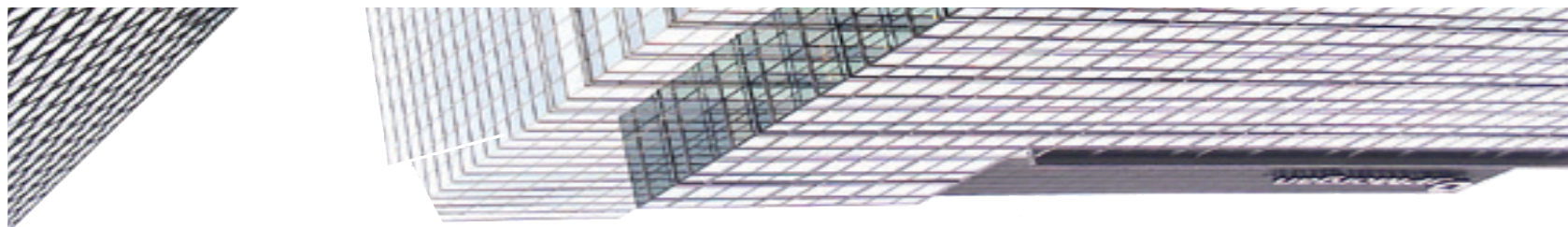
Adolescents

Adolescents can be more difficult to convince to use sun protection, but it is equally important that they do. They should check their skin for changes. While skin cancers are still unusual in teenagers, more and more are being diagnosed. UV protection should be encouraged. Do not allow your teenagers to use tanning beds. Self-tanning lotions or spray-on tans at a salon may help a teen that wants a little color to achieve that safely.

Adults

Adults should use UV protection daily. Skin cancers can be triggered at any time, and damaged skin from childhood exposure may be more vulnerable. Further, using sun protection can reverse some damage. Adults should routinely check their skin.

(By Huang Daoheng)



Hong Kong, city of life & lights

Suits, skyscrapers, multinationals & minorities

By Tom Carter

Hong Kong! The legendary Chinese city of life and lights, where millionaires rub shoulders with fresh-off-the-boat immigrants, skyscrapers overshadow shanties and class division is as dramatic as the neon that illuminates it all.

Located on the southernmost banks of the Chinese mainland and pressed against the South China Sea, there truly is nowhere else in the world like Hong Kong, for Hong Kong IS the World.

It is the best of Beijing and Bangkok, London and Las Vegas, New York and New Delhi; one of the most densely populated dependencies (a landmass of only 1,000 square kilometers for seven million residents), with one of the world's largest revolving multinational communities.

Indeed, a stroll around Tsim Sha Tsui (pronounced jimsawjoy), the city's tourist and trade center on the southern Kowloon peninsula, reveals the entire human

race in one square block radius: white people in pastel shorts walking side by side with majestically robed Africans, turbaned sheiks haggling with short-tempered Cantonese vendors, and street-corner Hindu hustlers harassing, well, everyone.

The nucleus of TST's international community is found on south Nathan Road, which buzzes 24 hours a day not unlike a third-world beehive. The thoroughfare is lit up with electronics, hazy with Indian incense and resonant with 200bpm Arabic music. It is a warren of the world; a global party, and everyone is invited. As a tailor from Pakistan profoundly puts it, 'the politicians who draw the borders, otherwise we are all friends here.'

And speaking of borders, Victoria Harbor seems a good excuse to divide the colorful crowds of Kowloon with the white-collared world of Hong Kong Island, the territory's banking and finance center. It is across these deep, reflective waters, which at night appear as a veri-

table liquid rainbow beneath the neon of corporate office towers and designer department stores, where the former crown colony's elite live, work, shop and play.

English-speaking Hong Kong, which transferred sovereignty from Britain to the People's Republic in 1997, is 95 percent Chinese save for a wealthier class, namely from South Asian countries and the west, who contribute to the Special Administrative Region's economic might with an unparalleled per capita GDP (310,000 yuan compared to Shanghai's diminutive 47,000 yuan) that rivals most of west Europe and is the highest in China. Hong Kong also happens to boast the most millionaires in the entire Asian continent.

They are strikingly handsome or unabashedly beautiful. They attire themselves in dark designer suits with razorblade creases and immaculately shined shoes, or dangerously short skirts and even more dangerous stiletto heels. Every automobile in Hong Kong Island

not a red taxi is a Ferrari, new-model Jaguar or a white-walled vintage Mercedes. And lest we forget that they drive on what Americans consider to be the wrong side of the road in the British-influenced Hong Kong, look the wrong way before crossing the street and one could get rolled over by a Rolls.

But all that is gold does not necessarily glitter. Beyond Central's escarpment of skyscrapers and scattered about the region's subtropical perimeter lay over 200 lesser islands that seem to jump back centuries. Lantau Island on the West Lamma Channel preciously hides the rustic minority village of Tai O and the Tanka people, descendants of Hong Kong's first settlers.

In stark contrast to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, there is no place in Tai O for finance, fashion or frenzy, where Ferraris are replaced by fishing boats, peasant bags are more useful than Gucci bags, and flip-flops take preference over Prada. The sleepy fishing

community of slat-wood, tin-roofed shanties is built completely atop stilts and interconnected by arched bridges occupied by old timers in reed hats whipping their cane rods into the placid delta waters.

Of course, most visitors to Hong Kong will invariably choose Mong Kok to minorities and 500 dollar dim sum to five-dollar fish balls. The compulsion of capitalism, the passion to purchase and the addiction of appearance – it is what Hong Kong has come to be known for, and frankly, to what it owes most of its charm.

"Our lives are just like anyone elses," chirps a manicured blonde, the wife of a Hong Kong banker, shopping in an upscale boutique in the Soho district, "but with a few more attached."

Tom Carter, a freelance writer and photographer from San Francisco, has lived in PR China the past two and a half years. He is currently backpacking through all 32 Chinese provinces.



From left to right: Central Hong Kong, Window shopping, Bruce Lee & fans, Rolled over by a Rolls, Don't miss the bus, Crossing Nathan Road, Kowloon's billboards

Photos by Tom Carter

Transportation

If you don't drive a BMW, don't despair. HK's public transportation is highly efficient, with the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) and Kowloon-Canton Railway (KCR) spanning throughout the New Territories, Kowloon, Lantau and Hong Kong islands. Double-decker trams and busses ply above ground while jetfoils and

HK's beloved Star Ferry continuously whisk commuters across Victoria Harbor. Or just hop in one of the thousands of red taxis.

Accommodation

For budget-conscious travelers, there is no better (or cheaper) place to absorb HK's multicultural ambiance than the infamous Chungking or Mirador mansions on south Nathan Road in Tsim Sha Tsui. Dorm beds in

any of the mansion's hundreds of claustrophobic guest-houses starting at 60 yuan.

Regional cuisine

HK is the dining table of the world: from traditional Cantonese dim sum to Indian curry, New York delis to Mexican tacos, Thai cuisine to Krispy Kreme, not to mention an overflow of McDonalds (150!) and 7-11 (600!). But be prepared for the prices – YIKES!



Central skyscrapers

By JJ

Agra of Uttar Pradesh state in India is famous for having one of the most precious national jewels: the romantically inspired Taj Mahal. Agra is a medieval city founded in 1506 on the banks of the Yamuna River and became the capital of the Mughal Empire from 1526 to 1658.

The Taj Mahal is one of the seven wonders of the modern world and a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is a mausoleum built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his most loved second wife Mumtaz Mahal. Completed in 1643 the construction required 22,000 workers and a thousand elephants for transportation. Vast amounts of white marble and precious stones were imported from Rajasthan, Punjab and from as far away as China.

The Taj Mahal is a majestic structure of translucent white marble. Four minarets in Islamic tradition proudly stand at each corner blending flawlessly with the large onion shaped dome that surmounts the structure. The dome is about the same height as the base building and is accentuated by the cylindrical drum that it sits on top of. Shah Jahan had a love for architectural aesthetics. He built the Taj Mahal in perfect symmetry and harmoniously blending Persian, Islamic and Hindu architectural influences. The surface of the entire structure is decorated in intricate calligraphy, stone inlays and carvings. Islamic structures are forbidden from the use of anthropomorphic forms and therefore only geometric elements were used.

My eyes were fixated on the structure as I walked along the tree lined Charbagh, the formal Mughal garden. The sunlight glistened against the majestic Taj Mahal and a picture-perfect reflection could be seen in the fountain water. Amidst the soothing sight of the white marble and serene environment, I sat in the Charbagh and gazed contemplatively at the Taj Mahal until closing time.

Shah Jahan's romantic story however did not have a happy ending. After construction, Shah Jahan's son Aurangzeb put him under house arrest at the nearby Agra Fort where legend has it that he spent the remainder of his days gazing at the Taj Mahal through the window. He died a few years later and his body placed beside his wife in Taj Mahal's inner chamber.

Today, the biggest danger to the Taj Mahal is pollution from the banks of the Yamuna River. Acid rain is not uncommon due to the nearby factories and oil refineries. The air pollution from diesel and gasoline engines also has a discoloring effect on the white marble.

In the evening, we accidentally discovered the annual Taj Mahotsav festival: an arts and cultural fair to showcase the rich heritage of Uttar Pradesh. Bedecked elephants, drum beaters and folk artists

AGRA

The Taj Mahal and getting poisoned



Not the restaurant! The real one (Taj Mahal)

CFP Photo

When to go

Taj Mahotsav Festival – Uttar Pradesh Craft and Cultural Fair

Where: Shilpgram, near Taj Mahal

Time of Festival: February 18–27

Quick relief from food poisoning

If you find yourself with the Delhi belly in India, Try a glass of soda water mixed with strong limejuice. Use the super sour green limes that you can find. You will feel better after.

put on shows to recreate the glorious past of the Mughal dynasty as merchants gleefully sold their goods to eager shoppers. There were woodcarvings, brasswares, pottery, silks, bracelets, Sarees and hand-made carpets.

My friend Janey had been in search of a Saree but hadn't found one she really liked until she saw an elegant blue Saree with intricate braiding at the market. Determined to have it, we bargained back and forth for a little while. With the help of a friendly American-Indian couple who were also there for vacation, she was able to buy it for 1,500 rupees (260 yuan).

At a corner carpet stall, carpets of all shapes and sizes piled on the ground. On the walls hung many colorful decorative carpets and in the far corner was a stack of chromatic cushions and matching bed covers. The owner was a woman in her 30s who sat on a carpet with her adorable little boy. She enthusiastically explained the process of making the carpets to us as the little boy happily hopped from carpet to carpet before landing on a pile of cushions. I had my eyes on a beautiful bed cover braided in a mosaic of alluring colors. Unfortunately, with very limited space in my backpack, and less than half way through my travels, I could not afford to pick up something bulky. I had to reluctantly decline.

The infamous term 'Delhi Belly' refers to getting food poisoning and diarrhea in India. Watch what you eat and drink I have been warned many times. After a week in India with no stomach problems, I had clearly become overconfident. At the festival, we ventured to an outdoor food court and found a pastry stall where I bought a triangular shaped pastry puff. I even topped it with some mysterious green sauce squeezed from a bright yellow plastic bottle. Janey suspiciously looked at the pastry and wisely declined my offer. Needless to say, I was punished with a terrible case of food poisoning and diarrhea for my folly. I was relegated to my hotel bed for the next two days. Both the pastry and the sauce must have been sitting under the sun the entire day while flies were swarming them. For the rest of my trip, I remembered to never underestimate the Delhi Belly again.

JJ (Jonathan J. Wong) was working in Vancouver, Canada for an S&P500 Microchip Design Company listed on the NASDAQ. He quit his job in 2005 and traveled for nine months around the world with his backpack and camera. In addition to being a travel photographer, JJ is also working as an independent securities trader. JJ was born in Edmonton, Canada and educated in Canada and Hong Kong. He visited Barcelona, Spain in July 2005. He currently resides in Beijing.

Genesis: Learn from the great outdoors



Zhang Pu graduated from Beijing University with a double bachelor's degree in economics and politics. He joined Genesis as a part-time training teacher three years ago and will join the company as a full-time employee this June.

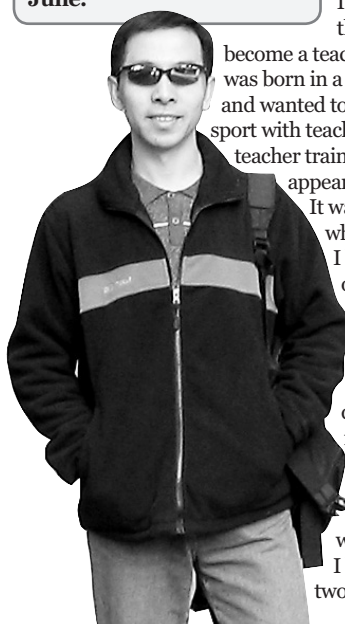
I can't say that I didn't like my old job, it's just that I love outdoor activities more – I love rock climbing, mountaineering, exploration and Genesis' atmosphere makes me happy. Working in China's biggest and most professional outdoor training company, I believe I will not only develop but also make many friends.

It was a very cold winter day when I had my interview. Though it was snowing, we were asked to go outside camping in the snow. It was a really hard time for everyone. Outdoor training is like that – when you really put yourself into it, you have no time to think about how to show yourself and leave a good impression on the interviewer. The competition brings out the real you. It was a competition as much about brawn as about brains. There was a doctor on the team, who came first in every activity, but still failed at the end because of a lack of teamwork.

A training teacher's work is always a challenging experience. Two years ago, I received my first training task for a European company. Because most of the participants were Europeans, so the whole training procedure was in English. I was nervous about my first English training class and even found it hard to sleep at night. I doubted if I could do the task in English. In the end the training went smoothly and the company was very satisfied with the result.

Comments from Zhao: Zhang Pu impressed us with his strong desire to learn new things, which is a very important characteristic for a training teacher, because a training teacher always has to learn new things. He has a good temper and is good at working through problems without getting angry. The training classes are changeable, and clients can be quite demanding. We have some employees who argue with the clients but a good training teacher like Zhang resolves disputes before they get out of control.

Guo Lixin got an MBA from Beijing Technology and Business University. Working at the training department, he started his internship in July 2005 and got a full-time offer in June.



Almost all of my friends were surprised on how big the change was when I gave up engineering and became an outdoor training teacher. I wasn't really interested in the IT industry and longed to

become a teacher. Maybe that's because I was born in a teacher's family. I love sports and wanted to do a job that combines sport with teaching. When I searched for teacher training online, the first job that appeared was the one for Genesis.

It was quite a coincidence because when I joined my first company, I had to take part in Genesis' outdoor training scheme.

My interview was very interesting. Twelve applicants set up a team and played a game – you randomly selected two cards from many cards and had one minute to prepare and give a speech based on the two words shown on the card. I was lucky that I got 'excellence'. I have lots of feeling about the two words and spoke with fervor



Li Juan got an MBA from the University of Western Sydney. She started her internship in February 2003 in the client department and got a full-time offer three months later.

I love sales work. My previous job was at a human resources department in a Taiwanese company. At the time, I was thinking that if I was ever to change jobs I would want to be a saleswoman, which is challenging work where you need to know about your client and how to meet their demands.

The Genesis interview was something that I hadn't experienced before. I was asked to wear sport shoes to the interview, which I was surprised about. The interview was held outside, and I was put with a group of 30 other interviewees and we were all given team-building exercises to do. The idea was to assess how well we worked in a team and what our individual strengths were.

In foreign companies, there are always very thick regulation books. If you follow the regulations you will have no problems. But at Genesis we have to learn what we should do by watching what others do. A couple of weeks after the interview, I took part in the first project.

My team was made up of five people including a training teacher, marketing director, project manager and assistant. I was an assistant. I remembered the first case was IBM company's training project. My task was to do the prophase questionnaire about the training orientation. The client team was special because it was temporarily set up and the members were chosen from many different departments and knew little about each other. The idea was that everyone would get to know each other through our training. And IBM wanted to assess what roles to give everyone by observing how all the members fared during the exercises. To do a good job I had to spend a lot of time on the questionnaire design. I could say that my growth is because my clients. By trying to understand what they want and by communicating with company's HR managers, who gave me a lot of advice, I became more professional.

As a saleswoman, it is very important to observe people and try to catch what they are thinking about. Our training product is quite abstract – the clients cannot have a direct impression of what the product is. So my job is to convince potential clients that this abstract product is one that is worth buying into. A good salesman needs to keep on studying new things to achieve his or her final goals and to best serve their clients. What a saleswoman is afraid of is being bogged down by the clients' questions.

For me, there is no such word as 'fail'. If I have a problem with a client I view it as an opportunity to improve my communication skills. Frustration should be viewed as an exciting thing, because it's an exposure of your ignorance and innocence. Your clients can teach you a lot more than you may have thought.

Comments from Zhao: Li Juan has a very strong desire for improvement. She has a very optimistic attitude towards life and is very responsible. Li once worked in our Guangzhou branch. She is very patient when she has a problem. Just eight months later, she was promoted from salesperson to sales executive, which shows her proactive attitude and devotion for the work.

She always does client follow-ups and focuses on projects after their development. She also often helps out in the training department to try to understand clients and solve problems. She is popular with everyone in the training department.



By Han Manman

The Genesis Education Group, established in 1995, is the first domestic organization engaged in professional experience-based outdoor training in China.

"When choosing graduates, I always look for two things. Firstly, whether he or she will be able to absorb what is given to them. Graduates always have many dreams, but when they join a company they may find that there is a large distance between the real world and their dreams. Then many of them begin toying with the work and thinking about going to another company. No matter what your plans are for your future career, you should focus on your present job, otherwise you will never cultivate a sense of responsibility. If you aren't responsible for your work then you're unlikely to be responsible for yourself."

Secondly, I will look to see if they have the potential to grow and develop. Through talking with graduates, I soon learn what is important to them. The people who focus on results always have potential. Lots of students say, "I don't care about results; I think the process is important." But companies want to make a profit so they have to focus on what the employee could bring to the company. Graduates should think about what they can bring to the company."

My advice to graduates is to absorb yourself in your first job for no less than one year – two to three years is better. That will be a very good foundation for your personal development. What you get out of your first job will stand you in good stead for future work, no matter what the work is. If you want to change jobs, then make sure the job you are going to is a level above your current one. Otherwise, you're just starting from scratch."

– Zhao Wei, general manager of Genesis

and assurance from the ancient monarch to the modern businessman. I guess my speech gave a good impression to the interviewers. The second part of the interview was to do an outdoor test. The first test was a four-kilometer running competition. Although most of the applicants are younger than me, I managed to win the race.

If a training teacher does not have enough control, knowledge and courage, they will have lots of problems as many unexpected things happen.

Life is like a broken bridge test. In the middle of the bridge there is a big hole. Everyone has the potential to jump over it, but first you need to overcome yourself. There are many obstacles in everyone's lives. No obstacles are impassable. The most important thing is to overcome any of your doubts.

Comments from Zhao: Guo is a very active member of the team. Any problems he has he will solve them optimistically and precisely. His maturity gives people a sense of solicitude and he is the guy to rely on. We hope like our training teachers to have many experiences. The adaptability of a teacher who has little life experience is limited. We put a lot of focus on the training programs for our clients, covering all the groups from company chiefs to government officials and students. Some training teachers can only teach particular groups but Guo can teach all of them.

Follow Beijing Today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be

given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see any chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.



Photo by Andreas Thorud

Unfertilized chicken fetus fried in animal fat. Or egg, if you like.

By Gareth George

Dumpling stuffed with the ovary and digestive glands of a crab

I have a friend back in England, and he has a little brother. Growing up, we thought he was the weirdest person in the world. He spoke in a robotic monotone, was utterly deadpan and took everything entirely literally. It wasn't until he was fired from a shelf-stacking job (for telling a customer he would like to become intimate with his wife – a response to his manager's suggestion to try and be more 'friendly' with the customers), that he was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome. Turned out he wasn't being contrary – he just couldn't differentiate between the different social contexts that most of us slip between without noticing. This sign, while not technically Chinglish, has Asperger's syndrome. 'Crab dumplings' is all we want to know.

One snack. Commitment issues. Seeks owner for nibbles.



Photo by Andreas Thorud

Complicated Cake

By Gareth George

Complicated cake? Well, perhaps it is. It's a traditional, crispy, sweet Chinese snack that isn't really a cake or a cookie. So perhaps you could say the role that it plays in the food world is 'complicated', awkwardly falling between these two categories. But is it 'complicated' in the sense that it harbors mixed feelings of resentment and love toward its parents? Does it find itself caught breathlessly chatting online to 'guys it would like to know better', and referring to itself as bi-curious? Does it spend quivering anxious nights worrying whether it's wellspring of creativity would dry up the minute it went cold turkey? Of course it doesn't. It's a snack. To start referring to it as 'complicated' is to burden it with our own woes (or perhaps Mark Binnersley's) when we really should simply enjoy it with a nice cup of tea. The sign should instead read 'blended cake' as this suggests that the snack is made from an assortment of different ingredients.



Students worry about landing their first job...

Preparing for job-hunting in the last summer

By Yang Fang

No wonder the days when graduates were assigned with good jobs are long gone, and now every year thousands of them swarmed into competitive job-hunting markets with their diplomas and certifications. Generally speaking, they should get some internship experience in companies apart from social activities on campus before graduating from university.

When the summer vocation's coming, I have to think about my future. To work, or to study for a master degree, is really a question for me. Anywhere, I must make preparation for the following semester.

Unlike the first two years, I have given up travelling and going back home in summer. As I have participated in lots of

activities, including voluntary activities, academic contest and some other practice during the past three years which made me a little confident, I prefer to take a job after graduation instead of being recommended for a master-degree study. However, it's really a great pressure for me to make decision since it's not only my business but also my family's. After persuading them that I don't want to go further study in my current major and I will find a good job and have a good career, they finally agreed.

Though summer vocation had just sprung, it's already time to think about next semester's fierce job-hunting competition. Frankly speaking, as a student majored in Chinese, I am not sure what position I can take and whether I can

find a suitable job at the beginning because I thought I had no working experience then. Fortunately, I got an opportunity to be an intern in an education consulting company which focused on students' career training and consulting because I am a team leader of a career development club which adds to the fame of this company. I learnt to write business strategy plans and ended as a good business planner, then planned and organized a professional summer camp aiming to enhance the members' job-hunting abilities and help them to plan their careers. Actually, I worked as a project manager with two interns' kind help. During this period, I really learned a lot and received some business and professional training.

During my preparation for

that summer camp, I revised and sent out my resumes several times to get opportunity to experience more. I transferred to a multi-national company in food and beverage industry on 20th in July just after we accomplished our summer camp because I want to learn more from a big-size and professional company before graduation. Working in this company, I have grasped lots of functions of Excel when doing data processing and known that relative abilities are necessary, of course computer skills and oral English are included. Especially, working with nice people from all over the world gave me a wild picture of corporate culture and gave me true sense of business.

Yang Fang is a student at Renmin University.



Kirk Kenney replies

Hi Yang Fang,

Upon reading your article I was pleased to learn that more and more Chinese students are choosing to gain work experience instead of simply spending the summer stooped over books. Now, let's take a look at your writing.

You should think about redoing your title so that it is capitalized, more concise and doesn't have any spelling mistakes: 'Last Summer's Job Hunt.' Remember that important words of four or more letters are capitalized in titles.

In your first paragraph, you should pay attention to the logic of your connections: you begin by saying 'no wonder the days when graduates were assigned good jobs are long gone,' but it's not clear why. If you say 'no wonder,' you must give an explanation.

In the second paragraph and in another spot you use the word 'vocation,' which means job and is connected to your theme, but here I think you mean to use 'vacation.' As well, we probably wouldn't say, 'make preparation' for something; instead, just say, 'prepare.' By changing nouns into verbs you can make your English a lot more concise.

In the following paragraph you can just say 'academic' instead of 'academical,' which isn't really a word. A couple of sentences

below, you should change 'a great pressure' into 'a great burden' or 'a lot to deal with.' Remember that 'pressure' is an uncountable noun so you can't use 'a'.

In the third paragraph you should try to choose a verb tense and stick with it. In the first sentence, for example, you should say 'it was already time' instead of 'it's already time.' This carries into the next sentence where you say, 'as a student majored.' Here you might say, 'a student who majored in' or 'a student majoring in.' And in the next part of the sentence you again cause some confusion with the verb tense. The sentence should read, 'I wasn't sure what position' because you're talking about your feeling at the time, in the past. Midway through the paragraph there is also a problem of clarity: 'because I... which adds to.' Here, you'd be better to divide this sentence into several sentences to clarify and explain what you mean. For example, 'Fortunately... consulting. Because I was previously the team leader of a career development club, the manager thought I would be an asset and therefore hired me.' Notice how by using two sentences and connectives like 'because' and 'therefore' the meaning is crystal clear.

In the following paragraph you should change 'to get opportunity to experience more'

to something like, 'to increase my opportunities and thus my experience.' As well, when referring to dates, don't say, '20th in July,' say 'July 20th,' or 'on the 20th of July.' Verb tense haunts you again here: 'I have grasped' should simply be 'I grasped' unless you are still at the company. For example, if I'm a foreigner and still in China I could say, 'I've learned a lot during my time here.' But if I go back to Canada and have left China I would say, 'I learned a lot when I was there.' Do you see the difference? In the same sentence, 'relative abilities' is an error of diction – you should say, 'related skills' and instead of saying 'are included,' a more natural way of saying it might be, 'including/especially computer skills and spoken English.' Another diction problem comes in the phrase 'wild picture,' by which your meaning is unclear. Perhaps the word you're looking for here is 'first hand picture' or 'clear picture.'

For the most part, your grammar is quite strong – just pay attention to vocabulary and spelling and focus on how to improve your clarity.

Well done!

Kirk.

Kirk Kenney is an English teacher at New Channel school.



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Friday, November 10

Exhibition

Everyday Heroes

Where: F2 Gallery, No 319
Caochangdi, Chaoyang
When: Wed-Sun 10am-6pm,
until December 3
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 8831

Nirvana – Zhang Runshi solo exhibition

Where: Beijing Art Now Gallery, Beijing Worker Stadium, opposite Gate 12, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm,
until November 30
Admission: Free
Tel: 6551 1632

Movie

Moi et Mon Blanc

Mamadi, a student from



Burkina Faso, and Franck, a young Frenchman, have jobs as night watchmen in a car park. On the surveillance screens, they watch various comings and goings, prostitution and drug trafficking as they happen among parking cars. One night, Mamadi finds an abandoned package stuffed with drugs

and money. He and Franck decide to keep the lot but soon become targets for the dealers. They hide for a time at Franck's place and then fly to Ouagadougou. Each discovers the world of the other in this adventure.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.

When: 6pm, until November 15

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Music

The Soul of Dolan

Ecstatic traditional music and dance of the Dolan people from Makit County, Xinjiang. The Dolan musicians will not only treat

the audience to Dolan muqam and Dolan folk songs, but also jam with guest musician Mamer in a ground-breaking session that will explore the traditional-improvised music of Xinjiang.

Where: South Gate Space, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: 8pm, November 10 and 11

Admission: 50-80 yuan

Tel: 6438 2797



Sunday, November 12

Exhibition

4th Exhibition of N12



Where: C5 Art, No 5 Sanlitun Xiwujie, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-7pm, until December 3

Admission: Free

Tel: 6460 3950

Movie

Xalima la plume



As the founder of folk music in Senegal, Seydina Insa Wade had his hour of glory in the 1970s. After his departure for France in the 1980s, where he performed in Jazz clubs, Seydina Insa Wade was somewhat forgotten by his countrymen and women. Observing that the new generation in Senegal was unfamiliar with his music, he decided to regain contact with his country and returned to Dakar to record his latest numbers.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang
When: 8pm, until November 15
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Outdoor

Royal Canal Boat Tour to the Summer Palace

Where: Cruise along the imperial canal in a traditional style canopy boat past Beijing Zoo, Beijing Aquarium and the Purple Bamboo Garden; appreciate the great views en route. Then stop mid-route, to walk along hidden paths to explore one neglected Indian-style stone pagoda temple and stone carving museum.

When: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (Inside Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) at 9am and return at around 1:30pm.

Cost: 200 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041



Saturday, November 11

Exhibition



Icon

The exhibition features Yang Jing, Chen Yijie and Yeo Donghun.

Where: Soka Art center, B-103, Sky&Sea Business Plaza, No 107 Dongs Beidajie, Dongcheng

When: Tue-Sun 10am-9pm, until December 14

Admission: Free

Tel: 8401 2377

Zang Boliang's Watercolor Painting



Where: Beijing Central Art Gallery & Cultural Venue, River-ville Square, No 1 District One, Tianzhu, Shunyi



When: Daily 10am-10pm, until November 18
Admission: Free

Tel: 6450 8483, 6450 8646

ANTONI TAPIES | Shan Fan
Where: White Space, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 12am-6pm, until January 20, 2007

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 2054

Movie

A Summer's Tale

A shy young man named Gas-

pard takes a vacation in a small village of Normandy, France, to meet his girlfriend Lena. During



an unsuccessful attempt to locate Lena, he meets Margot, a pretty local servant girl. Gaspard soon finds himself physically attracted to Margot, but she has other plans for the lad and introduces him to a girl in town whom fancies him. Part three of director Eric Rohmer's Four Seasons series.

Where: Box Cafe, Xiwan-gzhuang Xiaoqu, Shuangqing Lu, Haidian

When: 7:30pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6279 1280

Stage in December

Music

Lin Zhaoliang Violin Solo Concert

Who: Lin Zhaoliang
Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm,
December 1

Admission: 80-680yuan

Li Yundi Piano Recital

Who: Li Yundi
Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm,
December 3

Admission: 100-1,280yuan

Cai Qin Vocal Concert

Who: Cai Qin, one of the

Taiwan Ivy Singers

Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm,
December 16

Admission: 180-1,680yuan

Christmas Eve Concert

Who: Richard Clayderman
Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm,
December 24

Admission: 180-2,880 yuan

The New Year's Concert

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm,
December 31

Admission: 100-1,000yuan

Dance

Russian Royal Ballet

Who: Russian Royal Ballet, originated from Moscow Grand Theater, includes 40 dancers.

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,
December 15-16

Admission: 80-800 yuan

Opera and Drama

Snow White

Who: Teatro del Carretto
Where: Beijing Oriental Pioneer Theater, No 8-2 Dongdan Santiao, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, December 1-3
Admission: 50-120 yuan

Thunderstorm (Lei Yu)

Who: Beijing People's Art Theatre

Where: Capital Theater, No 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng
When: 7:30pm,
November 9-13

Admission: 80-500 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)